

**1998 MEXICAN WOLF
INTERAGENCY
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

March 1998



1998 Mexican Wolf Interagency Management Plan

APPROVAL PAGE

THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE APPROVES THIS 1998 MEXICAN WOLF INTERAGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR USE BY ALL AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL INVOLVED WITH THE MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY PROGRAM, UNTIL THIS PLAN IS NEXT REVISED.



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MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY LEADER

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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A. Introduction

This plan outlines the interagency management activities needed to reintroduce Mexican wolves (*Canis lupus baileyi*) in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA), consisting of the Apache and Gila National Forests of eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. This plan, and subsequent revisions, will be distributed to all personnel participating in the Mexican wolf reintroduction program to assist in coordinating interagency efforts.

This plan implements part of the Final Rule issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) establishing the reintroduced Mexican wolf population as nonessential experimental under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), published at 63 Federal Register pp. 1763-1772 (Jan. 12, 1998), codified at 50 CFR section 17.84(k). Section (3)(ix) of that Final Rule relates to this management plan in terms of authorizing personnel to take wolves in the experimental population:

“Personnel authorized by the Service may take any Mexican wolf in the nonessential experimental population in a manner consistent with a Service-approved management plan, special management measure, or a valid permit issued by the Service under section 17.32.”

Other documents besides the Final Rule that provide direction to this plan include the:

- *Notice of Record of Decision and Statement of Findings on the Environmental Impact Statement on Reintroduction of the Mexican Gray Wolf to its Historic Range in the Southwestern United States* (the Record of Decision), signed by Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt, dated March 4, 1997;
- USFWS's *Final Environmental Impact Statement for Reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf Within its Historic Range in the Southwestern United States* (the FEIS), dated November 1996;
- USFWS's *Final Environmental Assessment on Mexican Wolf Soft Release Pens* (the EA), dated November 3, 1997;
- USFWS's *Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan*, dated 1982;
- USFWS's *Interim Wolf Control Plan - Northern Rocky Mountains of Montana and Wyoming*, dated August 5, 1988,
- Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AGFD) *A Proposed Cooperative Reintroduction Plan for the Mexican Wolf in Arizona*, dated 1995,
- *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) between the USFWS and the AGFD, dated June 1997; and
- *Interagency Agreement* between the USFWS, Region 2, and USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS), Western Region, dated November 20, 1997.

This plan will be reviewed at least annually and revised if necessary, with input from cooperating

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parties and the public. This plan is not intended to supersede previous approvals, regulations, rules, agreements, laws, ordinances, or other obligations.

The Interagency Management Advisory Group (IMAG), consisting of officially-designated representatives of the cooperating parties, will meet regularly to assist with improving the content and implementation of this plan. The specific role of the IMAG is to:

- participate in developing and reviewing the annual Mexican Wolf Interagency Management Plan,
- evaluate and improve interagency cooperation in the field,
- advise the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader on issues related to wolf reintroduction, and
- provide a forum to: a) evaluate the status and progress of the reintroduction project, b) coordinate law enforcement activities, c) consider citizen concerns regarding the reintroductions, and d) exchange other pertinent information.

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B. GOAL

The primary goal of the reintroduction effort is to restore a self-sustaining population of Mexican wolves in the BRWRA. The objective is to re-establish approximately 100 wild wolves distributed over approximately 5,000 mi², consistent with the 1982 Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. This objective is projected to take about nine years to achieve, i.e., by about 2007. It is the cooperators' intent to manage wolves in the BRWRA in a manner that will minimize negative impacts, and maximize positive impacts, on the lifestyles and economy of local residents.

C. COOPERATING PARTIES AND AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES

The cooperating parties are those with officially-designated representatives on the IMAG. These parties are (in alphabetical order):

Apache County, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Catron County, Grant County, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Sierra County, U.S. Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service - Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, U.S. Forest Service - Gila National Forest, USFWS, and the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

(Greenlee County also was invited to appoint a representative to the IMAG but has not done so to date.) All personnel involved in the development of this plan or in the field work, law enforcement, or other aspects of the reintroduction are listed with contact information in Appendix 1, attached. (The Interagency Field Team (IFT), IMAG members, and law enforcement personnel are identified separately in Appendix 1.)

All handling and management of Mexican wolves must be done under the authorization of the USFWS Regional Director's Mexican Wolf Endangered Species Permit, which is reproduced in Appendix 2. A subpermit under that Permit is issued to and administered by the USFWS's Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader (formerly called the "Mexican Wolf Coordinator"). **In addition to the Recovery Leader, and any other USFWS or cooperating agency staff or contractors separately authorized by the Recovery Leader, the only personnel authorized to carry out the handling and management of Mexican wolves allowed under that Permit are the members of the Mexican Wolf IFT, as shown in the Organizational Chart, below.** These IFT personnel are authorized to take (including injure or kill) wolves and wolf-like canids consistent with the terms of the Final Rule. The IFT personnel are the:

USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist, AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist, and USDA WS Wolf Management Specialist, *with 6 F biologist*

The USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist has oversight responsibility for the IFT to implement management and monitoring activities at the field level. The AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist is responsible for implementing wolf monitoring and management activities in Arizona. The WS Wolf Management Specialist has primary responsibility for all activities related to human/wolf conflicts. In addition, one or more Biological Technician(s) provide support for all activities of the IFT but may only handle and manage wolves under the supervision of an IFT member. Composition of the IFT may change through personnel turnover or as agreements are reached with other agencies and tribes.

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The Final Rule is reproduced in Appendix 3. All authorized personnel must be familiar with its take and management provisions. The authorized personnel also may take wolves, as delegated by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, pursuant to a USFWS-approved special management measure or to a valid ESA permit issued by the USFWS. A special management measure may be approved by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader, or by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist in his absence, verbally or in writing. A special management measure may include designation of additional personnel authorized to take wolves, beyond those listed above, when necessary. Any authorization of a special management measure should be followed by written confirmation to the USFWS Endangered Species Permit file and should be communicated to the IFT and IMAG.

DECISION DELEGATION: All decisions regarding the capture, relocation, or lethal taking of wolves will be made by the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader, or the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist in his absence, and carried out by authorized personnel under their direction or oversight. In emergency situations necessitating the capture, relocation, or lethal taking of wolves when neither the USFWS Recovery Leader or Biologist are available, such decisions for actions involving livestock depredations or problem or nuisance wolves will be made by the USDA WS Wolf Management Specialist or, in his absence, by the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist. The latter has decision authority for all other situations requiring emergency wolf management actions when neither the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader nor the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist are available. They will be informed of such management decisions and actions as soon as possible.

In the absence of these designees, no wolves may be intentionally taken, except for in those circumstances specifically authorized in the Final Rule. Those circumstances are: harassment, under section (3)(ii); killing or injuring wolves actually engaged in the attack of livestock, under sections (3)(v), (3)(vi), and (3)(vii); and in defense of human life, under section (3)(xii). (See Appendix 3 for specific Final Rule requirements).

Two provisions in the Final Rule regarding authorized methods of take are repeated here for emphasis. Under section (3)(ix):

“Authorized personnel may use leg-hold traps and any other effective device or method for capturing or controlling wolves to carry out any measure that is part of [this] Service-approved management plan, notwithstanding any conflicts in State or local law.”

In other words, the authorization in the Final Rule for the use of leg-hold traps, and any other effective devices or methods, preempts any State or local law that seeks to restrict or prohibit their use.

And under section (3)(xiii):

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"The Service encourages those authorized to take wolves to use nonlethal means when practical and appropriate."

The IFT personnel are also designated by the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader to have the authority to receive citizen reports required by the Final Rule regarding certain actions. Citizens may also make these reports directly to the USFWS toll-free Mexican wolf phone number: 1 (888) 459-WOLF (or -9653). These required reports are for cases of:

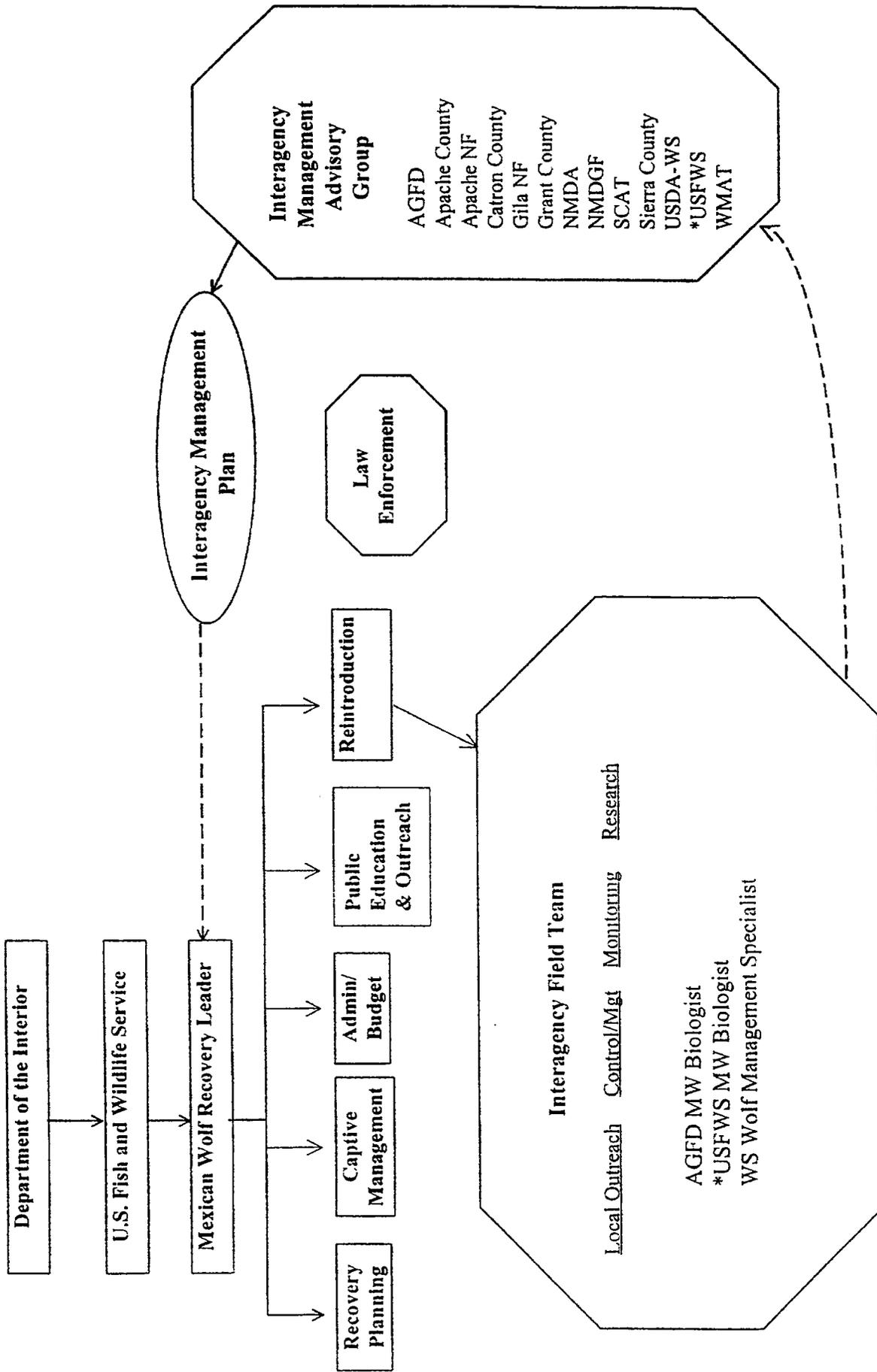
- a) unavoidable and unintentional take, to be reported within 24 hours of the take, under section (3)(i),
- b) harassment of wolves, within 7 days of the harassment, under section (3)(ii),
- c) citizen take of wolves attacking livestock, within 24 hours of the take, under sections (3)(v), (3)(vi), and 3(vii),
- d) take of wolves by guarding dogs, within 24 hours of the take, under section (3)(viii), and
- e) harassment or take of wolves in defense of human life, within 24 hours of the harassment or take, under section (3)(xii).

These reports, even if made after the required time period or to personnel other than the authorized IFT personnel, should be promptly forwarded, preferably within 24 hours, to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist or the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader. For reports in New Mexico, the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist or Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader will, if appropriate, promptly notify the designated NMDGF District Officer of the report.

D. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

(See attached Figure 1.)

Figure 1. Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Organizational Chart



*Lead Responsibility

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E. MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS, AND PERMITS

Various MOU's and Interagency Agreements have been developed between participating agencies relating to Mexican wolf recovery. Specifically, these are the MOU between the USFWS and the AGFD, dated June 1997; and the Cooperative Agreement between the USFWS and USDA APHIS WS, Western Region, dated November 20, 1997. This Management Plan is intended to follow in the spirit of these agreements. Additional MOU's or agreements negotiated in the future should be consistent with this Plan.

Additional permits and approvals granted for this project include the:

1. USFWS Regional Director's *Endangered Species Permit and Subpermit*, PRT-676811, which authorizes David Parsons and other personnel in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program to conduct various activities related to Mexican wolves (Appendix 2), dated Jan. 20, 1998;
2. U.S. Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Act approval for the information collection requirements in the Final Rule; OMB control number 1018-0095, dated Jan. 29, 1998.
3. USDA Forest Service, Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Supervisor's Decision Memo approving a *Special Use Permit* for the three Mexican wolf release pens constructed in 1997, dated Nov. 4, 1997.
4. USFWS National Wildlife Telemetry Frequency Management Program Authorization Statement for certain radio frequencies for Mexican wolf reintroduction, dated Oct. 24, 1997.

F. WOLF RELEASE PENS

As stated in the *Final Environmental Assessment on Mexican Wolf Soft Release Pens* (which should be referred to for further details), the USFWS has built small (1/3 ac.) chain-link fence pens on three of the seven designated potential release pen sites. The three sites with pens that were built in 1997 are Campbell Blue, Hawk's Nest, and Turkey Creek. The four sites that were not built on in 1997, i.e., Crow Poison, Engineer Spring, Pace Creek, and XXX Ranch, are designated as potential future release pen sites, where pens may be built as needed.

The USFWS and AGFD will take steps that provide the greatest likelihood of successful reintroduction, including minimizing human contact with, and acclimating, the wolves in the pens for up to several months before release. They will be managed according to the *Husbandry Protocol* developed through the Mexican Wolf Species Survival Plan, attached as Appendix 4. The USFWS and the USFS will restrict public access and "disturbance-causing land use activities" around the pens, as defined in the Final Rule (see Chap. G, below, for more information on these restrictions). These restrictions may apply up to a one-mile radius around the release pens while occupied by wolves.

An adaptive management approach will be used to determine numbers, gender, and age composition of wolves selected for release, as well as when wolves will enter, be held, or be released from the pens. Decisions will be made by the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader with input from the IFT based upon the team's best judgment of the various factors involved. Decisions may vary from site to site and year to year. Some of the factors surrounding the decision when to release the wolves from the pens may include:

- a) weather and snow cover,
- b) condition and behavior of wolves,
- c) timing of the wolves' reproductive cycle,
- d) proximity, vulnerability, and density of native prey,
- e) proximity to livestock,
- f) timing of livestock entry to allotments,
- g) locations of any established wolf territories, and
- h) nearby human activities.

Before release, any adult-sized individuals not already marked will be radio-collared and otherwise marked to assist in future identification (see the *Husbandry Protocol* - Appendix 4). On the chosen release date, the pen(s) will be opened and the wolves will be allowed to leave. After release from the pen(s), wolves may be provided with supplemental food to assist with acclimation to the wild. Husbandry, acclimation, and release protocols will be evaluated for potential use in subsequent years.

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Reasons for retaining, relocating, or adding specific pen sites in subsequent years may include: pen security, location of established wolf pack territories, prey distribution and density, water access, and changes in livestock distribution, stocking dates, and other factors.

Mitigation Measures Related to the Release Pens

As mitigation for potential effects of the release pens, cooperating agencies will advise people in the BRWRA of the potential, temporary, limited restrictions on public access and disturbance-causing land uses associated with the pen locations. These restrictions will be the minimum necessary to avoid disturbance of the wolves. Several land uses are expressly allowed even within the one-mile radius under the Final Rule. The specifically allowed uses within the closure areas are: (1) legally permitted livestock grazing and use of water sources by livestock; (2) livestock drives if no reasonable alternative route or timing exists; and (3) vehicle access over established roads to private property and to areas on public land where legally permitted activities are ongoing if no reasonable alternative route exists.

The EA with respect to potential use of the XXX Ranch pen site includes additional mitigation. If the site is to be used, alternative access to the trails within one mile of the pen site would be designed by the USFS. The closure around the pen would be applied so as not to limit public access to the nearby Blue River Corridor.

Additional biological mitigation measures described in Appendix 5 are to be carried out by the USFWS, AGFD, and cooperating agencies as an integral part of the release pen construction and use. **All personnel involved with pen construction and caretaking should be familiar with these measures as they include some ongoing obligations.** These will avoid any potential adverse effects to four endangered species, specifically the Arizona hedgehog cactus, bald eagle, Mexican spotted owl, and peregrine falcon.

G. RESTRICTIONS AROUND MEXICAN WOLF PENS, DENS, AND RENDEZVOUS SITES

The Final Rule, section 50 CFR 17.84(k)(8), provides:

On public lands, the Service and cooperating agencies may temporarily restrict human access and "disturbance-causing land use activities" [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)] within a 1-mile radius around release pens when wolves are in them, around active dens between March 1 and June 30, and around active wolf "rendezvous sites" [see definition in 50 CFR 17.84(k)(15)] between June 1 and September 30, as necessary.

The definitions in 50 CFR 17.84(k)(15) provide :

Disturbance-causing land use activity means any land use activity that the Service determines could adversely affect reproductive success, natural behavior, or survival of Mexican wolves. These activities may be temporarily restricted within a 1-mile radius of release pens, active dens, and rendezvous sites. Such activities may include, but are not limited to—timber or wood harvesting, management-ignited fire, mining or mine development, camping outside designated campgrounds, livestock drives, off-road vehicle use, hunting, and any other use or activity with the potential to disturb wolves. The following activities are specifically excluded from this definition—(1) legally permitted livestock grazing and use of water sources by - livestock; (2) livestock drives if no reasonable alternative route or timing exists; (3) vehicle access over established roads to private property and to areas on public land where legally permitted activities are ongoing if no reasonable alternative route exists; (4) use of lands within the national park or national wildlife refuge systems as safety buffer zones for military activities; (5) prescribed natural fire except in the vicinity of release pens; and (6) any authorized, specific land use that was active and ongoing at the time wolves chose to locate a den or rendezvous site nearby.

Rendezvous site means a gathering and activity area regularly used by a litter of young wolf pups after they have emerged from the den. Typically, the site is used for a period ranging from about one week to one month in the summer. Several sites may be used in succession.

The closures will be issued by order of the Apache and Gila National Forest Supervisors and publicized through appropriate notices. There are no other land use restrictions associated with Mexican wolf reintroduction.

H. WOLF MONITORING

The objective of the monitoring program is, to the extent practical, to collect scientific information on the post-release locations, activities and behavior of Mexican wolves including their interactions with other wildlife and livestock. A commitment to long-term monitoring is necessary to ensure reintroduction success and compatibility with current land and wildlife uses.

The AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist has responsibility for coordinating wolf monitoring in the BRWRA, with primary responsibility for field implementation in Arizona and to assist in New Mexico as needed.

Monitoring of released Mexican wolves will be more intensive in the early stages and require full cooperation of all agencies involved. Monitoring procedures used in other wolf programs will be adopted and adapted to fit local conditions. The adaptive approach will be central to the monitoring plan.

Data on survival, reproduction, food habits, kill rates, characteristics of prey, pack size, litter size, movements, habitat use, and territory size of re-established free-ranging Mexican wolves will be collected through a variety of techniques. These include but are not limited to: radio-telemetry, direct observation, kill site investigation, snow tracking, scat survey/analysis, scent station surveys, and howling observations. Each technique collects different types of information that will facilitate a more complete evaluation of reintroduction methodology, success, and impacts. All cooperating agencies will coordinate monitoring efforts within the BRWRA to ensure that monitoring activities are effective and do not conflict with private rights, authorized land uses, or National Forest regulations. (Other related responsibilities are described in Chap. T - PROJECT PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTIONS.)

1. Movements

Telemetry data will be analyzed to determine home range size, population dynamics, landscape use, wolf-human-livestock interactions, and locations of dens and rendezvous site. The frequency of telemetry location flights will be affected by the stability of wolf movements, weather, and funding. The IFT will attempt to locate newly released wolves 2-3 times per week from a fixed-wing aircraft, or as necessary until general movement patterns have been determined. **Wolf locations will be recorded on the Mexican Wolf Location Sheet (Appendix 6 - Form C).** The frequency of telemetry flights will decrease as wolves establish home ranges with more predictable movements. Wolves will be located from the ground with telemetry triangulation as needed to monitor wolf movements between flights. The rugged landscape and lack of access within the BRWRA likely will hinder ground telemetry. To avoid harassment or habituation, wolves will not be intentionally approached on the ground for purposes of direct observation for monitoring.

2. Prey characteristics

The IFT will investigate and sample kill sites to the extent practicable. If the prey is domestic, the WS Wolf Management Specialist will be contacted as soon as possible. Information collected at kill sites of wild prey will include a description of the prey capture scenario, estimated date of mortality, species, age, sex, condition, consumption rates, presence of scavengers, number of wolves present, the pack involved, and other relevant information. **Prey information will be recorded on the Mexican Wolf Prey Carcass Sheet (Appendix 6 - Form D).** Biological samples will be collected from kills for analysis, including lower mandible, femur, and wolf scats. Scats also will be collected from den and rendezvous sites after the wolves have abandoned these areas.

3. Snow tracking

Wolf travel routes will be back-tracked on skis or snowshoes, as feasible, to collect information on habitat use, food habits, other predators and prey in the area, and the number of wolves per pack. Telemetry information will be used to avoid wolves so as not to effect their behavior.

4. Citizen reports

People who report a wolf sighting will be interviewed by an IFT member (or by other trained personnel as authorized by the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader) and the information recorded on the Wolf Occurrence Form. The IFT will attempt to investigate reported wolf occurrences as appropriate. The IFT will maintain a centralized database of reports from the BRWRA area.

5. Natality

Reproductive efforts will be documented for each pack by aerial observers during summer telemetry flights. If a pack is apparently denning but no pups are observed during telemetry flights, the IFT may attempt howling surveys at least 0.5 km from the suspected den to elicit pup howling responses. Howling surveys will be kept to a minimum to avoid disturbing the wolves. Annual recruitment will be estimated from aerial observations of wolf numbers through the fall and winter months.

6. Mortality

All dead wolves will be treated as a potential crime scene and appropriate law enforcement officials will be notified. (Follow procedures in Chap. K - Specific Response Procedures, under part 7, *Wolf Found Injured or Dead*). Wolf mortality rates, causes of mortality, and survivorship will be analyzed.

I. CONTROL OF MEXICAN WOLVES

The Final Rule provisions largely represent measures to mitigate the potential adverse effects of endangered wolves by providing the greatest degree of management flexibility consistent with wolf recovery. The WS Wolf Management Specialist, working with the IFT and under the direction of the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, will have primary responsibility to respond to all incidents of wolf-caused livestock depredation and wolf-human conflict with the objective of preventing or reducing additional depredation or conflict. The USFWS Mexican Wolf Recover Leader or his designee will make the determination if a wolf is to be captured alive or killed. (See Chap. C - Cooperating Parties and Authorized Activities; above, under DECISION DELEGATION for the Recovery Leader's delegation of this authority to designees.) (Also see Fig. 2 for a general diagram for implementation of provisions in this chapter.)

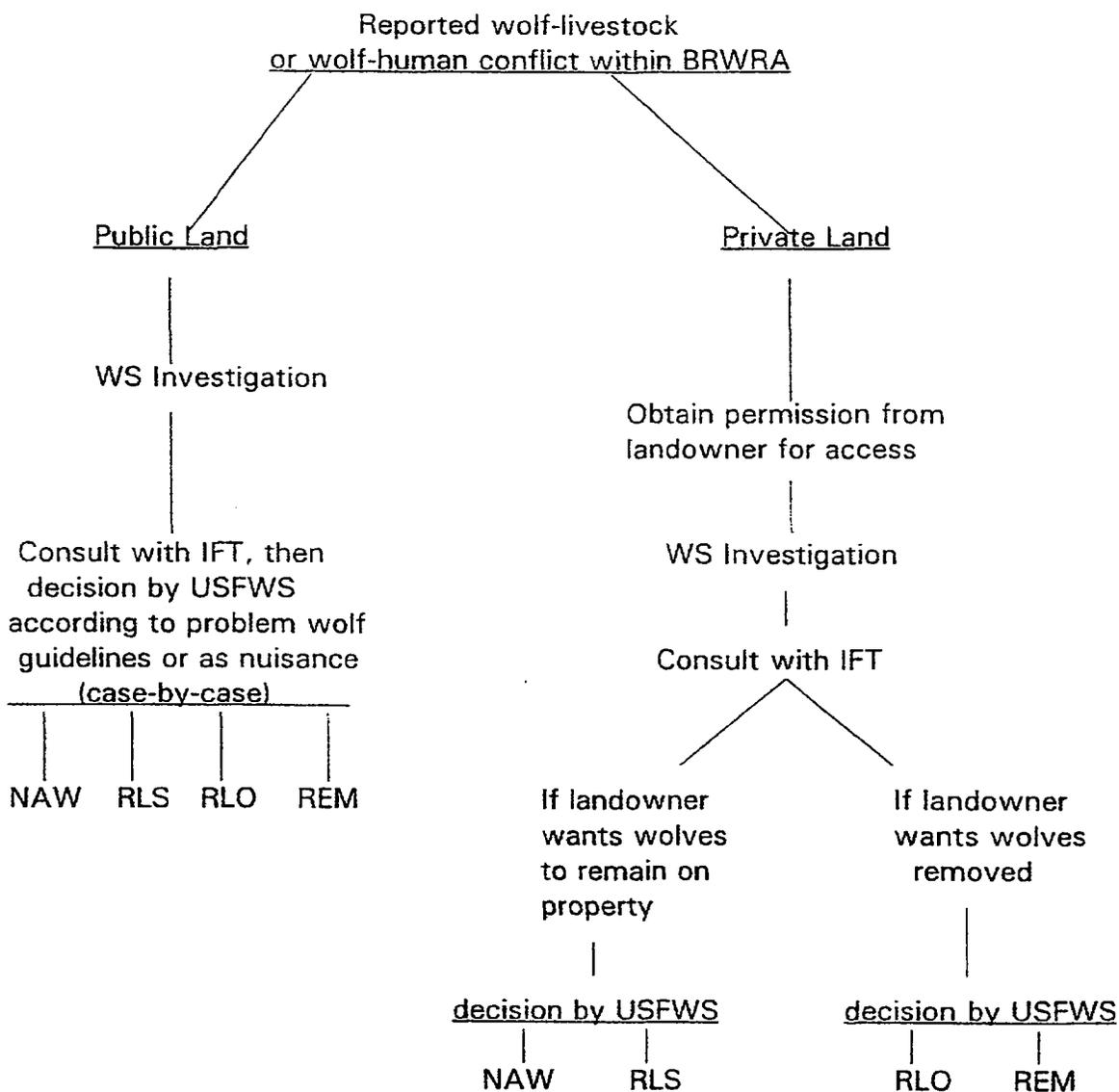
1. Investigative Procedures

The WS Wolf Management Specialist or his designee is responsible for responding rapidly to wolf-livestock and wolf-human conflicts. Suspected or reported wolf depredations and wolf-human conflicts will be investigated immediately, if possible, but not later than 48 hours after a report is received. **The investigator will complete the Mexican Wolf Complaint Investigation Form (Appendix 6 - Form A).** The investigator will determine, if possible, whether wolves were responsible for a suspected depredation based on evidence at the depredation site. Copies of all completed forms will be promptly forwarded to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader and members of the IFT. They will not be released to other people without the approval of the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader.

The WS Wolf Management Specialist and the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, in consultation with the IFT (if time allows), will jointly determine the problem or nuisance status of the wolf or wolves prior to initiation of any control action. Results of the investigation, IFT consultation, and application of "problem wolf" criteria will be used in determining whether or not a control action should be initiated.

For wolf depredations upon livestock in New Mexico, the WS Wolf Management Specialist will coordinate with the appropriate NMDGF District Officer. (See Appendix 1 for contact information.) The NMDGF District Officer may assist the WS Wolf Management Specialist with the investigation of the depredation as time and resources allow. The NMDGF District Officer will process complaints regarding depredations on private land if required by New Mexico law or regulation. Investigations of depredations by the WS Wolf Management Specialist and/or NMDGF District Officer on private land must be coordinated with the landowner, lessee, or their employee, who may observe and provide information pertinent to the investigation.

Fig. 2. Guidelines for Mexican wolf control within the BRWRA.



Notes:

- NAW = No action against wolves, but work to improve situation if necessary and feasible.
- RLS = Release on-site or nearby and initiate management actions to reduce probability of additional offense.
- RLO = Relocate within recovery area.
- REM = Remove from population (place in captivity or euthanize).
- IFT = Interagency Field Team
- WS = Wildlife Services Wolf Management Specialist or designee
- USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or designee

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If notification comes first to the NMDGF District Officer, he/she shall immediately notify the WS Wolf Management specialist to coordinate the investigation. State law may require initiation of an investigation within 24 hours.

2. Criteria for Determining Status of Problem and Nuisance Wolves

Final Rule section 17.84 (k)(ix) provides guidelines for when Mexican wolves may be taken by authorized personnel. (Note that the provisions below in double brackets [[]] will apply only if the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area is used).

“Personnel authorized by the Service may take any Mexican wolf in the nonessential experimental population in a manner consistent with a Service-approved management plan, special management measure, or a valid permit issued by the Service under section 17.32. This may include, but is not limited to, capture and translocation of wolves that—(1) prey on livestock; (2) attack pets or domestic animals other than livestock on private or tribal land; (3) “impact game populations in ways which may inhibit further wolf recovery” [see definition in section 17.84 (k)(15)]; [[(4) prey on members of the desert bighorn sheep herd found on the White Sands Missile Range and San Andres National Wildlife Refuge so long as the State of New Mexico lists it as a species to be protected]]; (5) are considered “**problem wolves**” [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)]; (6) are a **nuisance**; [[(7) endanger themselves by their presence in a military impact area;]] (8) need aid or veterinary care; or (9) are necessary for authorized scientific, research, or management purposes. Lethal methods of take may be used when reasonable attempts to capture wolves alive fail and when the Service determines that immediate removal of a particular wolf or wolves from the wild is necessary. Authorized personnel may use leg-hold traps and any other effective device or method for capturing or controlling wolves to carry out any measure that is a part of a Service-approved management plan, notwithstanding any conflicts in State or local law. The disposition of all wolves (live or dead) or their parts taken as part of a Service-authorized management activity must follow provisions in Service-approved management plans or interagency agreements or procedures approved by the Service on a case-by-case basis.

The provision to take “nuisance” wolves is potentially quite broad, and will be defined on a case-by-case basis by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee.

A specific definition of “problem wolves” is found in section 17.84(k)(15) of the Final Rule:

Problem wolves means wolves that (1) have depredated lawfully present

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domestic livestock, (2) are members of a group or pack (including adults, yearlings, and young-of-the-year) that were directly involved in livestock depredations, (3) were fed by or are dependent upon adults involved with livestock depredations (because young animals will likely acquire the pack's livestock depredation habits), (4) have depredated domestic animals other than livestock on private or tribal lands, two times in an area within one year, or (5) are habituated to humans, human residences, or other facilities.

The following conditions and criteria also apply in determining the "problem" status of wolves:

- (a) Wounded livestock or some remains of a livestock carcass must be present with clear evidence that wolves were responsible for the wounding or killing and there must be reason to believe that additional wounding or killing of livestock would occur if the problem wolf or wolves were not controlled. Such evidence is essential since wolves may simply feed on carrion they have found while not being responsible for the kill.
- (b) Intentional feeding or attracting of wolves must not have occurred. Undisposed livestock carcasses in an area where depredations have occurred may be considered attractants depending upon local circumstances. The feasibility of and legal requirements (if any) for carcass disposal will be considered.
- (c) On public lands, animal husbandry practices required in existing approved allotment management plans and annual operating plans, or any approved modifications thereto, must have been followed.
- (d) Wolves may not necessarily be determined to be problem wolves if depredations on lawfully present livestock occur on public lands and in areas, or at times, that are critically important to wolves. Areas or habitat components of critical importance to wolves include areas within 1 mile of known or highly suspected wolf dens from March 1 to June 30 or rendezvous sites from June 1 to Sep. 30. Under such conditions, control of wolves will occur only if all other options for resolution of the conflict have been exhausted. This criterion applies only to public lands, during the early phases of wolf recovery (five or less wolf packs).
- (e) The severity of the depredation(s) or nuisance situation(s) and the number of times the wolf (or wolves) have committed depredations or nuisance activities may also be considered.

3. Guidelines for Conducting Wolf Control Actions

Control actions will be initiated in accordance with the following conditions and guidelines. **All control actions will be documented on the Mexican Wolf Complaint Investigation Form (Appendix 6 - Form A).**

- (a) Wolves involved in depredations on lawfully present livestock and determined to be a problem under the above criteria or a nuisance will be controlled. When feasible, removal or elimination of attractants, such as dead livestock carcasses, will accompany the control action. Control actions may include capture of the depredating wolf or wolves and (1) release on-site or nearby and initiation of management actions to reduce the probability of recurring depredations, (2) relocation within the recovery area, (3) removal from the wild population and placement in captivity or euthanizing, (4) removal from the wild followed by aversive conditioning and relocation within the recovery area, or (5) other appropriate actions as determined by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, in consultation with the IFT (if time allows), on a case-by-case basis.
- (b) If a wolf is determined not to be a problem or nuisance, no control action will be initiated. The complainant will be notified and provided reasons for the determination. Agency managers will work with the complainant to attempt to resolve any conflict by eliminating the attractants or by other management actions, such as changes in livestock husbandry or management practices.
- (c) If efforts to live-capture problem or nuisance wolves are unsuccessful and depredations continue, lethal control may be used in consultation with and following a decision by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee.
- (d) The USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, in consultation with the IFT (if time allows), will make a decision on the disposition (e.g., release on site or nearby, relocation within the recovery area, or removal from the wild) of a problem or nuisance wolf no later than 24 hours following its capture. Captured wolves will be maintained in an appropriate holding facility. Any injuries sustained during the capture will be appropriately and humanely treated. **All captures for control or other reasons, and all wolves killed or found dead, will be documented on the Mexican Wolf Capture and Handling Data Form (Appendix 6 - Form B).**
- (e) Prior to a relocation, the IFT will consult with the involved land management

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agency and potentially affected permittees (if time allows) to determine the best relocation site within the recovery area and to coordinate activities. Permittees in the vicinity of the chosen relocation area will be notified. For at least the first five years of the reintroduction effort, relocated wolves will be radio-collared, permanently marked, and monitored using radiotelemetry. **All relocations will be documented on the Mexican Wolf Capture and Handling Data Form (Appendix 6 - Form B).**

- (f) While not expected to occur, wolves that present a human safety hazard will be promptly removed from the wild or euthanized. Any wolf that has bitten a human will be euthanized and tested for rabies. No animal that represents a safety hazard to people will be released or relocated. Disposition of such animals will be the prerogative of the USFWS. Such animals or their parts will be treated as the property of the USFWS.

The disposition of a problem or nuisance wolf will be a discretionary call by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, based on the wolf's sex, age, reproductive status, the status of wolf recovery in the recovery area, the number and seriousness of the offense, and whether it occurred in the primary or secondary recovery zone.

Generally, the IFT will permanently remove from the wild or, as a last resort, euthanize any wolves exhibiting a consistent pattern of livestock depredation (three or more confirmed kills within one year in primary wolf recovery zones or two or more in other areas); a wolf would be euthanized only after a determination by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee that it had no further value to the recovery program. The feasibility of preventing recurring depredation problems through changes in livestock husbandry and management practices will be explored with ranchers.

After two confirmed incidents within one year of nuisance behavior or the killing or injuring of pets or other domestic animals on private lands by a wolf, the IFT will try to deter this behavior. The IFT will move any captured offending wolves to a distant location in the recovery area, except that pregnant or lactating females may be released on-site or nearby. The IFT will permanently remove from the wild or euthanize any wolves exhibiting a consistent pattern of nuisance behavior (three or more incidents per year).

In the early phase of recovery (five or fewer packs), management-induced mortality, particularly to females, should be minimized. Management-induced mortality in the later phases of recovery (six or more packs) becomes less critical to the successful recovery of the Mexican wolf.

Attempts should be made to keep alpha females, females with young, or females showing signs of lactation in the population, when feasible, in order to maintain the integrity of the breeding segment of the population. Thus, females with young-of-the-year may not be controlled before their second

or third (depending on the recovery zone or other circumstances) confirmed livestock depredation in the early stages of recovery. Also, during the later stages of recovery (five or more packs), when other adults are removed from the population, females with young (<September 1) may be released or not controlled.

Decisions to relocate or remove a wolf or wolves from the wild population will be based on criteria such as the number of established packs in the recovery area, the sex, age, and reproductive status of the animal(s), and other circumstances relevant to the specific situation. Consistent with the above guidelines, relocation or on-site release (rather than removal) will be favored in the early phases of recovery. These animals represent the seed stock upon which recovery depends. Their retention in the population will facilitate population expansion.

Relocation sites will be within the recovery area and will be in an area where established packs do not exist. Research in other areas has shown that relocation of individuals into areas supporting established packs are largely unsuccessful. Therefore, areas having no pack activity but adjacent to or within reasonable dispersal distance of areas having established packs will be favored as relocation sites. These areas are most appropriate for relocated animals because: (1) packs do not currently occur there and (2) future pairing and pack formation by the relocated animal(s) with dispersing animals from nearby packs is enhanced. Other factors including prey density, livestock use, and human habitation/activity will also be considered.

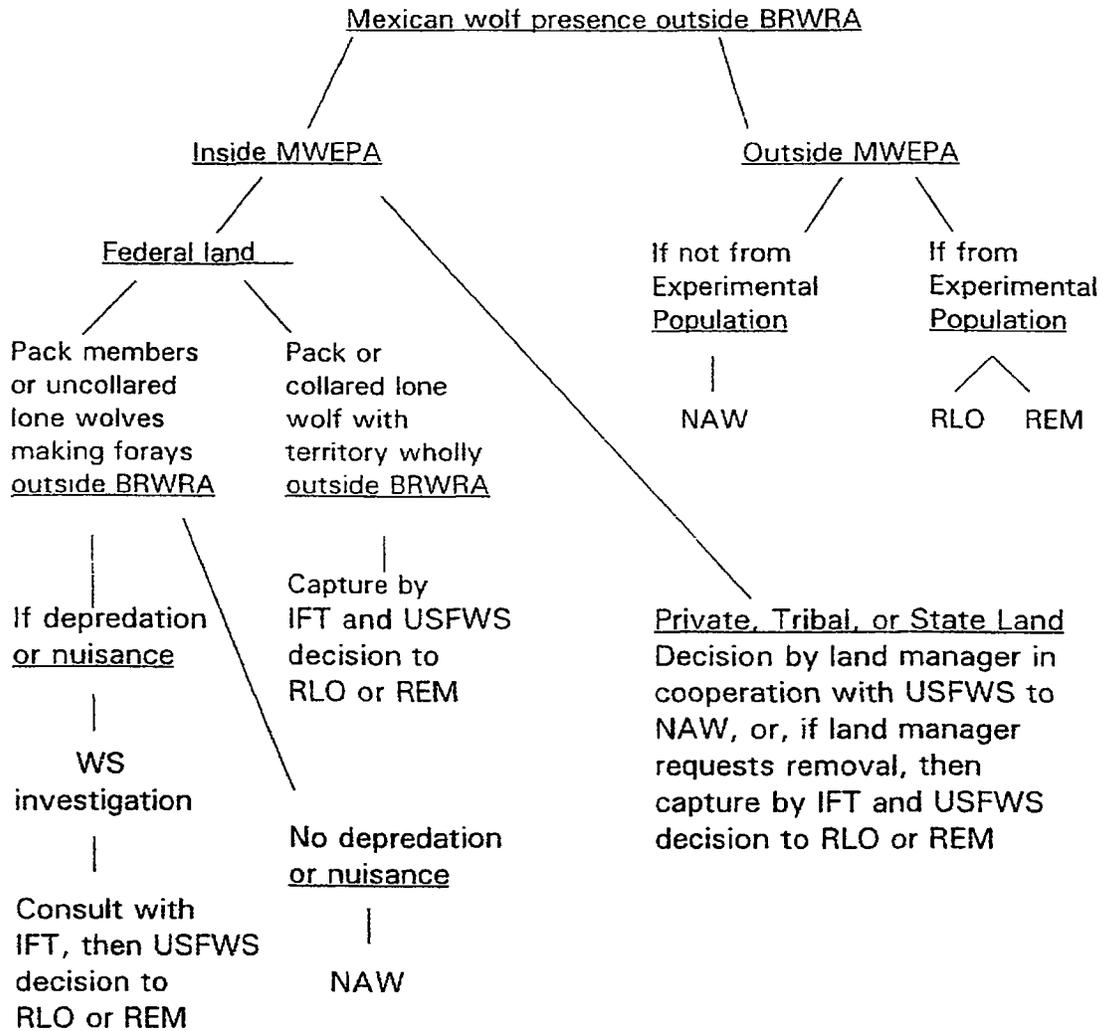
Additional Control Provisions

The IFT will attempt to recapture and relocate members of the experimental population that establish territories wholly outside the designated BRWRA, i.e., the Apache and Gila National Forests' boundaries. However, the IFT will not routinely recapture and return pack members that make occasional forays outside the BRWRA nor will it routinely attempt to do so for uncollared lone wolves, except when livestock depredation occurs. Packs that establish territories on public land wholly outside the BRWRA will be captured and returned to the BRWRA or to captivity. If wolves move onto private or tribal lands outside the BRWRA, the IFT will attempt to develop management actions in cooperation with the land manager including recapture and return if requested by the land owner or tribal government. Subsequent written agreements with private or tribal landowners may supersede this general provision. **The IFT will not work on private or tribal land without permission.** Wolves that move outside the MWEPA will be removed or relocated. The decision procedures for control efforts when wolves are found outside the BRWRA are shown in Figure 3.

Section (k)(3)(ix) of the Final Rule also provides for controlling wolves that "impact game populations in ways which may inhibit further wolf recovery". These impacts are defined in section (k)(15) of the Final Rule as follows:

"The Service encourages states and tribes to define unacceptable impacts from wolf

Fig. 3. Guidelines for Mexican wolf control outside the BRWRA.



Notes:

- NAW = No action against wolves, but work to improve situation if necessary and feasible.
- RLS = Release on-site or nearby and initiate management actions to reduce probability of additional offense.
- RLO = Relocate within recovery area.
- REM = Remove from population (place in captivity or euthanize).
- IFT = Interagency Field Team
- WS = Wildlife Services Wolf Management Specialist or designee
- USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or designee
- MWEPA = Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area

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predation on game populations in Service-approved management plans. Until such time the term will mean the following - two consecutive years with a cumulative 35 percent decrease in population or hunter harvest estimates for a particular species of ungulate in a game management unit or distinct herd segment compared to the pre-wolf five year average (unit or herd must contain average of greater than 100 animals). If wolf predation is shown to be the primary cause of ungulate population declines (greater than 50 percent of adult or young mortality), then wolves may be moved to reduce ungulate mortality rates and assist in herd recovery, but only in conjunction with application of other, common, professionally acceptable, wildlife management techniques.”

To date, no states or tribes have suggested alternate definitions of the term. If or when they do, the suggested new definition(s) will be considered by the IMAG and recommendations will be made to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader regarding their incorporation into this plan.

J. ALLOWED PRIVATE AND TRIBAL TAKE OF DEPREDATING MEXICAN WOLVES.

The Final Rule allows private parties to take depredating wolves in limited circumstances. Key terms are defined in Appendix 3.

(v) On private land anywhere within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, livestock owners or their agents may take (including kill or injure) any wolf actually "engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock" [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)]; provided that evidence of livestock freshly wounded or killed by wolves is present; and further provided that the take is reported to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(vi) On tribal reservation land anywhere within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, livestock owners or their agents may take (including kill or injure) any wolf actually engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock; provided that evidence of livestock freshly wounded or killed by wolves is present; and further provided that the take is reported to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(vii) On "public lands" [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)] allotted for grazing anywhere within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, including within the designated "wolf recovery areas" [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)], livestock owners or their agents may be issued a permit under the Act to take wolves actually engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting "livestock" [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)]. Before such a permit is issued, the following conditions must be met—(1) livestock must be legally present on the grazing allotment; (2) six or more "breeding pairs" [see definition in section 17.84(k)(15)] of Mexican wolves must be present in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area; (3) previous loss or injury of livestock on the grazing allotment, caused by wolves, must be documented by the Service or our authorized agent; and (4) agency efforts to resolve the problem must be completed. Permits issued under this provision will be valid for 45 days or less and will specify the maximum number of wolves you are allowed to take. If you take a wolf under this provision, evidence of livestock freshly wounded or killed by wolves must be present. You must report the take to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

When six or more breeding pairs exist in the BRWRA, the procedures for issuing an ESA permit to a private party under the "public land" provision will be publicized and a permit form developed.

K. SPECIFIC RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Specific response procedures need to be outlined to insure accurate, timely, and responsible attention to situations that may arise during the reintroduction project. Listed below are specific situations and response procedures. (See also Chap. I - CONTROL OF MEXICAN WOLVES.)

1. *Violation of closures around release pens, dens, and rendezvous sites*

Release pens have been built in areas with low human density. However, due to the multiple uses of the area, some public activity is inevitable. Project personnel will note human activity in the vicinity of penned wolves, or officially closed areas around dens and rendezvous sites, and immediately inform the USFS Law Enforcement (LE) personnel and prepare a report of the incident. They will then notify the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist, the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist, and the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader. If unauthorized visitors are encountered by project personnel in the restricted areas, they will be informed of the project and the rationale for the closure. Once a visitor is contacted, other project personnel will be informed. Specific intentions of visitors will be politely asked and potential conflicts and ways to avoid them will be discussed. If violation of the closure continues, USFS LE again should be contacted, since the closures are created through orders issued by the Forest Supervisor. In the event that no USFS LE personnel are available, or the violators threaten or attempt to threaten the wolves or project personnel, or to damage the pens or dens, then USFWS LE personnel (or, if they are not available, Arizona or New Mexico LE personnel depending on location) should be contacted immediately. (LE contact information is in Appendix 1.)

2. *Livestock in Restricted Area*

The presence of livestock in a restricted area is not considered a violation of the Final Rule, but for livestock that are "strays" on the particular pasture or allotment where the restricted area is, i.e., that do not belong there in the first place, their owner should be encouraged to contact the USFS District Ranger to discuss a way to remove them. (Livestock considered by the USFS to be in trespass may be removed through USFS procedures.) The IFT should explain the situation to the allottee; then, the allottee or his/her agent may enter the restricted area, including driving on established roads, but solely for the purpose of inspecting or removing the livestock. Any time livestock are noticed in a restricted area, the IFT, with the assistance of the USFS if appropriate, should advise the owner of their presence and of the possibility of depredation.

3. *Wolves Escaping from Release Pen*

Consult the *Husbandry Protocol* (Appendix 4), for immediate action. If an escape occurs after the wolves have been in a release pen for four or more weeks, the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader, in consultation with the IFT, may decide not to recapture the escaped animal(s) and perhaps to release any wolves remaining in the pen(s). Otherwise, recapture actions should be immediately taken by the IFT in consultation, if practical, with the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee.

4. Report of Depredation

All reports of depredation on livestock or pets will be forwarded to the WS Wolf Management Specialist as soon as they are received by any personnel; reports should then be forwarded to the IFT and to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader. Phone numbers for reporting depredations will be distributed along with information on the depredation control program through various methods, including but not limited to bulk mailings, posters, information at USFS Ranger stations, and public outreach programs. It will be the responsibility of the WS Wolf Management Specialist to coordinate depredation investigation and control activities with the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist and, in Arizona, with the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist, and in New Mexico with the nearest NMDGF District Officer; and with other appropriate State agencies. Reports of livestock depredation will be reported on the Mexican Wolf Complaint Investigation Form, Appendix 6 - Form A.

5. Nuisance Wolf Report

These situations, which might include, for example, wolves habituated to humans or their residences, wolves eating garbage, wolves chasing or attempting to mate with pets, wolves denning or rendezvousing on private land or potential high conflict areas, wolves staying in livestock calving areas, or wolves staying along highways where they are likely to be hit, will be reported to the WS Wolf Management Specialist and the IFT, who will coordinate with the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee. They will be resolved on a case-by-case basis through a decision by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Leader or his designee.

6. Human Safety Threat Report

Human safety threats are considered highly unlikely; nevertheless, if they occur, they will receive the highest priority and all other activities of the IFT may be redirected until the resolution of any credible human safety threat situation is achieved. Reports received by anyone should be immediately forwarded to the WS Wolf Management Specialist and the IFT, who will immediately inform the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee.

7. Wolf Found Injured or Dead

Whenever a wolf mortality is discovered or reported, the report should be directed to the USFWS Special Agent in the state that the report originated from immediately. LE officers from the State Game and Fish Department and USFS Forest Supervisor's office in the State should also be notified immediately. (Contact information for law enforcement personnel is given in Appendix 1.) USFWS Special Agents will then contact the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader. Mortalities should also be reported to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist and to the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist as soon as possible.

Cooperators, with the assistance of USFWS Law Enforcement personnel, will attempt to determine the cause of death and previous health status for all Mexican wolf mortalities. (All captured and dead wolves will be recorded on the Mexican Wolf Capture and Handling Form, Appendix 6 - Form

B.) The location of any discovered dead or injured Mexican wolves will be considered a crime scene and will be examined by USFWS law enforcement personnel for evidence of illegal activity before the surrounding site or dead animal is disturbed. Necessary veterinary care may be administered to injured wolves. (Contact information for veterinary personnel is given in Appendix 1.) If foul play is suspected, USFWS law enforcement personnel will ship the dead wolf to the USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon. Otherwise, the carcass will be shipped to the National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. All carcasses and wolf parts will be treated as the property of the USFWS. Preliminary diagnoses will be provided to key project personnel immediately upon completion of the necropsy. Results of necropsy examinations on all Mexican wolves that die during the reintroduction will be summarized in an annual report.

8. Suspected Taking of a Wolf (Without Physical Evidence of an Injured or Dead Wolf)

Monitoring, credible reports, or other evidence may lead personnel to believe that someone may have illegally taken, or attempted to take, or solicited an attempt to take, a wolf. Such evidence received by anyone should be immediately forwarded to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee, who will then decide whether Law Enforcement personnel should be notified. Clear notes should be kept of all such evidence.

9. Known or Suspected Wolf Hybrid

Under the Final Rule, section 3(x):

“the Service or any agent so authorized by the Service may capture, kill, subject to genetic testing, place in captivity, euthanize, or return to the wild (if found to be a pure Mexican wolf) any feral wolf-like animal, feral wolf hybrid, or feral dog found within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area that shows physical or behavioral evidence of (1) hybridization with other canids, such as domestic dogs or coyotes; (2) being an animal raised in captivity, other than as part of a Service-approved wolf recovery program; or (3) being socialized or habituated to humans.”

Prior to taking any action, the IFT member should obtain authorization from the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee.

L. DEPREDATION CLAIM COORDINATION

In 1995, Defenders of Wildlife, a national nonprofit organization, expanded its Northern Rockies livestock compensation fund to cover potential losses in the Southwest. The fund reimburses ranchers for all verified livestock losses to wolves. In 1997, Defenders created the Wolf Compensation Trust and appointed a board of Trustees to administer the fund and ensure its availability. According to Defenders, the compensation trust will be maintained for as long as the wolf is on the endangered species list in each affected recovery area. Defenders maintains the fund at approximately \$100,000. The interest is reinvested and the trust will continue to grow unless livestock loss rates increase dramatically. Defenders states it will expand the trust as necessary if demands increase.

The WS Wolf Management Specialist verifies reported wolf kills. The WS Specialist informs the rancher that he or she is eligible for compensation, and then informs Defenders. Defenders contacts the rancher, takes his or her assessment of the animal's value and compares it with current auction reports and livestock prices as reported in regional newspapers. If there is a significant difference, the local county extension agent determines the price. Once fair market value has been determined, the Trust issues a check to the rancher. The maximum payment per animal is \$2,000. If the WS Specialist is unable to confirm the cause of depredation, Defenders may compensate at 50% value for probable losses when wolves are in the area and evidence exists that a depredation occurred, based on the WS Specialist's recommendation. The Trust does not compensate for livestock covered by an insurance program or an existing state program.

From August, 1987, to January, 1998, Defenders paid \$58,934 to 56 ranchers in the Northern Rockies. The cooperators do not guarantee the future existence of this private mitigation fund.

M. PUBLIC INTERACTION PLAN

The Mexican Wolf Recovery Program involves the reintroduction of a large native predator to historic range from which it was intentionally eradicated. Wolves were eradicated because of conflicts between wolf presence and human use of resources--primarily livestock depredation and utilization of native prey by Mexican wolves. Viable populations of Mexican wolves were gone from the United States by the mid-1900s. Mexican wolves are the most endangered subspecies of gray wolf in North America, with all known surviving animals in captivity prior to reintroduction.

Changes in human attitudes, scientific knowledge, and legislation such as the Endangered Species Act have resulted in efforts to restore wolf populations to various portions of historic range in the United States. In 1997, after completion of an Environmental Impact Statement, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved a plan to reintroduce Mexican wolves to historic range in Arizona and New Mexico. The first releases are scheduled for the spring of 1998.

Wolf restoration remains controversial. Although public opinion polls show that the majority of individuals support wolf recovery, the proportion of urban-dwelling individuals who support wolf recovery is often much higher compared to rural areas. Many people in rural communities in which wolves are to be restored do not support, or strongly oppose, reintroduction.

The Service and cooperators in the Mexican wolf recovery program are committed to an open dialogue with all parties interested in Mexican wolf recovery. As one component of our effort to develop an effective public interaction program, the Service undertook a public interaction needs assessment in May 1996. The purpose was to solicit ideas and suggestions from the public about tools and approaches that the Service and cooperating agencies could use to implement an effective public interaction plan for the wolf reintroduction program. Individuals representing a broad spectrum of interests, primarily within local communities, were interviewed by an independent public interaction specialist. The following issues were identified as being of concern to local people:

Wolf Management Issues

- Inability to predict behavior of released wolves
- Livestock depredation
- Potential depredation on existing wildlife and domestic animals other than livestock

Program Management Issues

- Responsiveness and/or reliability of agency information
- How problem wolves will be managed
- Who will monitor the USFWS (as the program moves forward)

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- Relations and effective coordination between USFWS and other agencies

Information Needs and Dissemination

- Timely information on the status and locations of wolves, and depredation incidents
- Identification of long-term goals and prospects of the reintroduction program
- Direct mailing of regular updates was identified as a preferred method of receiving information.
- Public meetings were not identified as a preferred method of communication; however, forums for two-way communication, either one-on-one or in interactive workshops, and presentations to targeted audiences were suggested as effective ways to share information and concerns.
- Locally-based agencies were identified as important outlets to distribute current information about the program.

Interactions with Local Communities

- Agency staff living in local communities
- Positive and effective relationships between agencies
- Partnerships with local business and private organizations

In July 1997, cooperating agencies met to discuss the findings of the needs assessment and other sources of input from the public. A draft summary with an invitation for comment was circulated to about 3,000 individuals on the Mexican wolf mailing list in December. The following public interaction plan reflects the principles, goals, and objectives of the Mexican wolf recovery program, and the information gained from the public interaction needs assessment, public comments on the draft summary of the public interaction plan, and conversations with interested parties.

Goal of the Public Interaction Program

To implement a program for public interaction that provides for open, timely, and effective two-way communication between the Mexican wolf recovery program and the public in a cost-efficient manner, and that builds tolerance, trust, and where possible, support with affected parties.

Objectives

- 1 Understand the information needs of key stakeholders and local communities, and be prepared to provide people with the information they need in a timely manner;
- 2 Establish and maintain an ongoing and credible line of communication with stakeholders to ensure that the Service is aware of current and emerging concerns;

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- 3 Listen and respond to citizen concerns about wolf recovery in a credible and timely manner;
- 4 Establish an effective and accessible local presence in the affected community;
- 5 Establish a program of public interactions that encourages interested parties to actively participate in our program where possible and appropriate. Incorporate suggested changes and program improvements when possible, and provide feedback to the interested public; and
- 6 Establish a process for communication, coordination, and cooperation with state, federal, local, and tribal government agencies that fosters the best possible working relations among the agencies involved in or affected by wolf recovery.

Specific Actions:

Plan objectives addressed by specific actions are listed in parentheses following the action description.

- An Interagency Management Advisory Group (IMAG) with representatives from affected federal and state agencies, tribes, and local governments has been established. The purposes of the group include improving interagency cooperation and communication, developing and reviewing annual wolf management plans, conducting project evaluations, and advising the Service's Mexican wolf recovery leader on issues and concerns related to wolf reintroduction. (1,2,3,6)
- An interagency field team (IFT), composed of biologists from the Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and USDA Wildlife Services has been established to implement the wolf reintroduction effort. Other state and tribal biologists may be added to this team as necessary. (3,4,6)
- A Mexican Wolf Field Office has been established in Alpine, Arizona. Full time field personnel are living in the local communities. (4)
- A toll-free telephone line has been established for the following purpose: (1,2,3)
 - Allow callers to leave a recorded message to report, as required under the experimental population rule, if they kill, injure, or harass a wolf, or if they want to report a "problem" wolf or depredation. Callers will be assured that they will receive a return call within 24 hours during the work week, or within 72 hours over weekends and holidays. The number is 1-888-459-WOLF (-9653). Emergency backup numbers to contact agency personnel are provided.
- Project staff are available to work with local organizations to provide issue-related presentations, workshops, and other appropriate public forums regarding wolf recovery. (1,2,3,4,5)
- Volunteers from nongovernment organizations, educational institutions, and local

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communities have been trained to assist in providing wolf husbandry care for wolves in acclimation pens. (5)

- Current information materials have been developed, and disseminated to locally-based Arizona Game and Fish, U.S. Forest Service, and County government offices. Updated information will continue to be made available through these offices and other convenient locations. (1)

Specific Products:

Plan objectives addressed by specific products are listed in parentheses following each product description.

- The Project Update will be issued regularly (approximately 6 times annually) to the Mexican wolf mailing list. The Project Update will reflect input from all cooperating agencies in the Mexican wolf reintroduction project. It will include current information about the status of wolves within the recovery area, and depredations. (1,6)
 - Space will be provided in the project update for a citizen column, entitled "Life in Wolf Country". The column will be a forum for ideas, opinions, and experiences of interested citizens. (2,3,5)
- A brief field update (revised as new information is available) will be regularly posted at local community centers such as post offices, Forest Service offices, etc. in Alpine, Springerville, Clifton, and other communities near areas occupied wolves as wolf populations disperse and expand within the recovery area. (1,4)
- Two information brochures will be developed and distributed: (1,2,5)
 - Mexican Wolf Reintroduction (with basic biology, identification guide, human and pet safety issues, agency contacts and telephone numbers, etc.
 - "Ranching in Wolf Country". Agencies will seek to cooperate with organizations such as Cattle Growers' Associations and County Extension Services to develop a brochure that addresses livestock depredation: tips on reducing the likelihood of depredation; what to do if you suspect wolf depredation; what's legal and what's not; how to apply for a wolf control permit on public lands, how to apply to the Defenders of Wildlife Depredation Compensation fund, etc.
- Current information materials, including the Project Update and field updates, are now maintained on the Service's Mexican Wolf Web site (<http://ifw2es.fws.gov/wolf>). The site is being linked with other appropriate government and non-government web sites. (1)
- Press releases regarding significant program actions and results are distributed to regional and local media, and contacts are maintained with key media representatives. (1,2)
- Annual reports on the progress of the program will be made available to the public through the web site, libraries, and by request. (1)
- Cooperators will work to create a symbol or logo to give the program a distinct identity.

(5,6)

This plan is intended to be fluid and capable of responding quickly to changing needs and emerging concerns. Additional actions may be initiated and products developed at any time as specific needs are identified through communication avenues established under this plan. It will be reviewed and revised at least annually. Public input will be sought by attaching the current plan to the Project Update at the time of the annual review and asking for comments and suggestions for changes to the plan.

N. MEDIA COORDINATION

All media requests to accompany field personnel or conduct on-site interviews should be referred initially to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Program's Media Coordinator, Hans Stuart, who will consult on all activities with the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee and with the other agency media coordinators involved. The AGFD's Media Coordinator is Bruce Sitko. The NMDGF Media Coordinator is Eddie Bennett. (See Appendix 1 for contact information).

During the initial stages of reintroduction, it is likely that media pressure could compromise monitoring and management objectives. It will be the responsibility of the media coordinators to arrange media activities around the field schedules of project personnel. Special media project proposals may be submitted to the USFWS Media Coordinator. However, such projects may have to be scheduled to avoid potential field conflicts. Media coordinators will consult with each other and project staff before committing to appointments.

Media coordinators will ensure that media information releases are coordinated with appropriate cooperators and conducted jointly, when feasible and appropriate.

O. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Authority

The USFWS has primary jurisdiction to investigate the taking of Mexican wolves pursuant to the ESA, 16 United States Code 1531-1544, and 50 Code of Federal Regulations 17. The primary investigator for the taking of a Mexican wolf will be a USFWS Special Agent. (See Law Enforcement Contact Information in Appendix 1.)

Law Enforcement Coordination

USFWS Special Agents will coordinate investigative activities with other law enforcement (LE) officials (i.e., U.S. Forest Service Agents and Officers, and Arizona and New Mexico Wildlife Officers and other law enforcement agencies) as necessary. Agents and officers, may, in the interest of preservation of a potential crime scene, take necessary steps to preserve evidence.

Non-law Enforcement Personnel

Non-law enforcement personnel may take necessary steps to preserve evidence at a potential crime scene after consultation with a USFWS Special Agent or his designee. If good reason exists to believe that the lives of other wolves may be endangered by leaving the dead wolf where it is, or if other wolves are or have been feeding on the dead wolf, the most readily available member of the IFT may make a decision regarding removal of the dead wolf and any suspicious potential sources of toxins or other potential hazard to the live wolves.

Law Enforcement Press Releases/Media Inquiries

All press releases concerning wolf mortality investigations and other wolf-related criminal investigations shall only be issued by the USFWS Assistant Regional Director/Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM or his designee. All media inquires concerning investigations shall be directed to the USFWS Assistant Regional Director/Law Enforcement, in Albuquerque, NM.

Notification Priority for Mexican Wolf Mortality

Whenever a wolf mortality is discovered or reported, the report should be directed to the USFWS Special Agent in the state that the report originated from immediately. LE officers from the State Game and Fish Department and USFS Forest Supervisor's office in the State should also be notified immediately. USFWS Special Agents will then contact the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee. It shall be the responsibility of the Wolf Recovery Leader (or designee) to make further notification to appropriate personnel.

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All LE officers should be familiar with the nonessential experimental population rule (Appendix 3), State laws, and other applicable laws. It should be noted that it is a crime under section (k)(5) of the Final Rule: "to attempt to commit, solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed, any offense defined in this rule". In other words, for example, trying but failing to illegally kill a wolf, or even trying but failing to get someone else to illegally kill a wolf, is just as much a crime under the Rule as succeeding in personally illegally killing a wolf. In addition to investigations of dead or injured wolves, credible reports of attempts or solicitation to violate the Rule should be investigated by USFWS LE personnel and considered for prosecution. **No public comments should be made by anyone regarding law enforcement investigations; if asked, just say "We don't comment on law enforcement investigations"**. If necessary, refer inquiries to the USFWS Assistant Regional Director/Law Enforcement, Albuquerque, NM, or his designee.

Under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA), NMSA 17-2-37 through 17-2-46, it is a misdemeanor to take, harass, hunt, capture, kill, attempt to kill, possess, transport, export, process, sell, offer for sale, or ship an endangered Mexican wolf, except in emergency situations involving an immediate threat to human life or private property. If there is evidence of any of these activities in New Mexico, the nearest NMDGF District Officer should be informed. (See Appendix 1 for location and contact information for District Offices.) NMDGF will assist USFWS Law Enforcement officers to investigate violation of the WCA as it pertains to Mexican wolves, within the limits of NMDGF jurisdiction, and under the MOU for Cooperative Law Enforcement between the USFWS and NMDGF (1996). Reports of any investigation should be distributed according to normal law enforcement procedures.

P. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTS

Quarterly progress reports will be prepared by the IFT, with the assistance of various cooperators involved in the reintroduction, and submitted to the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader and all IMAG representatives. Progress reports will include at least: number of wolves in pens, number of wolves free-ranging, wolf mortalities and reproduction, wolf movements, predation and use areas (including maps), public interaction activities, depredation incidents and outcome, and other results of the monitoring and management program. Den and rendezvous site locations may be reported but may be kept confidential from the public if necessary to protect the wolves. All monitoring data collected will be exchanged with or made available to the cooperators. The quarterly reports also will delineate occupied wolf range as defined in the Final Rule, section 17.84(k)(15):

Occupied Mexican wolf range means an area of confirmed presence of resident breeding packs or pairs of wolves or area consistently used by at least one resident wolf over a period of at least one month. The Service must confirm or corroborate wolf presence. Exact delineation of the area will be described by:

- (1) 5-mile (8 km) radius around all locations of wolves and wolf sign confirmed as described above (nonradio-monitored);
- (2) 5-mile (8 km) radius around radio locations of resident wolves when fewer than 20 radio locations are available (for radio-monitored wolves only);
- or
- (3) 3-mile (4.8 km) radius around the convex polygon developed from more than 20 radio locations of a pack, pair, or single wolf acquired over a period of at least 6 months (for radio-monitored wolves).

Q. PROJECT EVALUATION

An annual report evaluating the reintroduction progress will be prepared by the IFT, reviewed by the IMAG, and approved by the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader at the end of each calendar year. Under similar review procedures, the IFT will prepare a full evaluation report after three and five years. The full evaluations will include recommendations regarding continuation, modification, or termination of the reintroduction effort. It may include, if appropriate, recommendations on whether, and how, to use the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area. Decision-making criteria to be considered by the cooperating agencies will include those recommended by the AGFD in its Cooperative Reintroduction Plan, which also calls for full evaluation of the initial "experimental" phase after three years:

- whether the wolves have successfully established home ranges within the designated wolf recovery area,
- whether the reintroduced wolves reproduce successfully in the wild,
- whether the numbers and vulnerability of prey are adequate to support wolves,
- whether the livestock depredation control program is effective,
- whether documented cases of threats to human safety have occurred,
- whether wolf mortality is substantially higher than projected in the EIS,
- whether the population growth curve is substantially lower than projected in the EIS,
- whether effective cooperation with other agencies and the public is occurring,
and
- whether combined agency funds and staff are adequate to carry out needed management, monitoring, and research.

These criteria may need to be updated in the light of changes in circumstances after the initial releases.

R. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

Regular IMAG meetings will be held to discuss the status of the reintroduction project. Emergency situations may require an immediate meeting of cooperating agency representatives. Agency representatives will be responsible for informing others in their own agency. Meeting locations may be rotated as necessary to encourage widespread participation of cooperators. Topics of coordination meetings may include but not be limited to the following issues: 1) survival, movement, habitat use, food habits and reproduction of captive and released wolves; 2) interagency communication; 3) law enforcement; 4) personnel; 5) roles and functions of cooperating agencies; 6) information and education accomplishments and needs, and 7) any of the other evaluation criteria listed in the previous chapter. IMAG meeting summary notes should be taken and distributed to all IMAG members. The Federal Advisory Committee Act exemption of the IMAG should be maintained.

S. IDENTIFICATION OF RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The IFT will consider and recommend, following IMAG review, research priorities to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader for possible implementation if funding allows. Input may be sought from the Mexican Wolf Recovery Team; other qualified biologists; academia; other federal state, local, and tribal agencies; and the general public. A facilitated workshop may be held to assist with identifying research priorities. Subjects of research might include, for example:

- Mexican wolf survival, reproduction, ecology, natural history, behavior, and movements,
- prey population effects,
- predator population effects,
- livestock depredation and effectiveness of the control program,
- human attitudes and economic effects of reintroduction.

The IMAG may assist in identifying additional funding sources and cooperators. Research proposals using outside funding will be reviewed by the IFT and IMAG with recommendations made to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader, for approval. An ESA permit or Arizona or New Mexico State permits may be required for some types of research.

T. PROJECT PERSONNEL JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Identified project positions and associated responsibilities are described below.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

USFWS MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY LEADER

- Has responsibility and decision authority, except as delegated, for Mexican wolf recovery, captive breeding, and the reintroduction project.
- Leads the IMAG for the reintroduction project.
- Approves management plans developed by the IMAG.
- Except as delegated, supervises Mexican wolf staff for the USFWS.

Other USFWS staff and contractors who work under the direction of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader will assist in the coordination of wolf reintroduction efforts.

~~USFWS MEXICAN WOLF BIOLOGIST~~

- wolf field coordinator*
- Has oversight responsibility for the IFT to implement management and monitoring activities and decisions at the field level.
 - Coordinates with participating agencies and provides guidance and oversight to the IFT.
 - Serves as primary liaison between the IFT and the USFWS.
 - Coordinates public outreach efforts regarding field implementation.
 - Supervises technical field staff for the USFWS.
 - Participates in all management, monitoring, research, and outreach activities as necessary.
 - Has primary responsibility for implementing wolf monitoring and management activities in NM.
 - Provides input to the IMAG for evaluation of the status and progress of the reintroduction effort.

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN(S)

The employee(s) performs a variety of work in support of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program administered by the Southwestern Region of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including:

- Feeds and monitors wolves in holding facilities.
- Using telemetry equipment, howling surveys, and sign detection monitors the location, movements, reproductive status, and activities of free-ranging wolves.
- Assists with various wolf management and research activities such as livestock depredation investigations, prey selection and utilization, kill investigations, wolf captures, and relocation.
- Assists with development and implementation of public interaction activities, such as information development and dissemination activities, newsletters, information meetings and workshops, public presentations, school programs, and direct interaction with others.

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- Assists with various office tasks such as report preparation, data management, literature reviews, purchasing, and telephone inquiries.
- Maintains equipment and supplies.

USFWS PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

The USFWS public information coordinator will have primary responsibility for media coordination regarding the reintroduction effort and will work closely with other agency and public or private information personnel to schedule media events and distribute project news releases and other information to the public.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - WILDLIFE SERVICES WOLF MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

- In cooperation with the IFT and the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader, has primary responsibility for wolf management activities related to human/wolf conflicts.
- In cooperation with the USFWS and other cooperating agencies, conducts outreach activities to the general public, government, and non-government organizations with special emphasis on the wolf management program and minimizing wolf/human conflicts.
- Conducts training for WS and other agency personnel as deemed appropriate by the IMAG in identifying wolf activity, wolf depredation, and management techniques.
- Participates in all management, monitoring, research, and outreach activities as necessary.
- Provides input through the USFWS's Mexican Wolf Biologist to the IMAG with regard to the wolf control program in evaluating the status and progress of the reintroduction effort.
- Serves as the primary liaison between the IFT and WS.

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

NONGAME AND ENDANGERED WILDLIFE PROGRAM CHIEF

The Chief is the Department's lead for its Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program. Based in Phoenix, the Chief has statewide administrative responsibility for the program, including Mexican wolf reintroduction and management, and: 1) ensures that all wolf project activities are carried out within the scope of applicable program and project narratives and work plans, budgets, and state and federal permits; (2) assists project personnel in communicating with cooperators and agencies at state, regional, and national levels; 3) reviews project documents and accomplishments to determine the need for changes in approach; and (4) assists in resolving any conflicts related to the project.

NONGAME MAMMALS PROGRAM MANAGER

The Nongame Mammals Program Manager (NGMPM) is based in Phoenix, with statewide responsibilities for Mexican wolf management. The NGMPM coordinates overall project supervision with the Project Leader, Region I Nongame Specialist. The NGMPM: 1) provides

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information to the Department on the reintroduction effort and 2) assists the Regional Nongame Specialist in making site management decisions and analyzing reintroduction results.

AGFD PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

The Mexican wolf project public information coordinator will serve as the principal point of contact for project related public information exchange for the Department. The coordinator will work closely with other agency and public information personnel to schedule media events and distribute project news releases and other information to the public.

REGIONAL NONGAME SPECIALIST

The Regional Nongame Specialist (RNGS) is the Department's Mexican Wolf Project Leader. Based in the Pinetop Regional Office, the RNGS provides project leadership. The RNGS: 1) supervises the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist; 2) keeps the Department and NGMPM apprised of reintroduction efforts and progress; 3) communicates with cooperators and agencies at the state and regional level; 4) assists the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist in making site management decisions and development of workload schedules; 5) evaluates operations and reintroduction results; and 6) assists the NGMPM in making program decisions and assessing reintroduction program needs.

AGFD MEXICAN WOLF BIOLOGIST

- Responsible to the USFWS's Mexican Wolf Biologist for implementing wolf monitoring and management activities in Arizona. Assists with monitoring and management activities in New Mexico as necessary and appropriate.
- Directs the Mexican Wolf IFT in capturing, marking, monitoring, and managing reintroduced Mexican wolves in Arizona. Develops data collection and analysis methods.
- Prepares and provides periodic reports on the status, locations, movements, and activities of reintroduced wolves in Arizona.
- In coordination with the USFWS and other cooperating agencies, conducts public outreach activities and implements actions in the Public Interaction Plan.
- Conducts technical training for interagency field staff as necessary and appropriate.
- Provides input through the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist to the IMAG for evaluating the status and progress of Mexican wolf reintroduction program.
- Participates in all management, monitoring, research, and outreach activities as necessary.
- Serves as the primary liaison between the IFT and the Department.

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND FISH

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM LEADER

The program leader, based in Santa Fe, is responsible for the New Mexico threatened and endangered species program, including coordination with the USFWS on the Mexican wolf

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reintroduction. The program leader administers activities of the NMDGF Mexican Wolf Biologist (if the position is established); represents NMDGF on the IMAG; coordinates with other NMDGF staff to ensure that wolf project activities are consistent with Department authorities, regulations and policies; assists project personnel in coordinating with cooperators and other agencies; reviews project reports and other information to determine any need for changes in approach; and assists in resolving any conflicts related to the project.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION SPECIALIST

The conservation education specialist, based in Santa Fe, is responsible for wildlife conservation education in New Mexico and will assist with public education and outreach activities regarding the Mexican wolf reintroduction program. The conservation education specialist serves as the principal contact for project related public information exchange; coordinates with other agencies, and with the NMDGF Public Affairs Division and the Southwest Area public affairs specialist, regarding media events, news releases, and other public information.

DISTRICT OFFICERS, SOUTHWEST AREA

District officers are based in Socorro, Reserve, Quemado, Silver City, Deming, Truth or Consequences, Hatch, Datil, Magdalena and Las Cruces. They will assist USFWS Law Enforcement to investigate violations of the Wildlife Conservation Act as it pertains to Mexican wolves, within limits of NMDGF jurisdiction and according to the Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Law Enforcement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (1996); assist the Wildlife Services biologist to investigate depredation reports; and may provide limited assistance to the IFT in wolf monitoring, management or research activities, as determined by other obligations and resource constraints. District officers are principal contacts with local publics and should be regularly informed by the IFT of the current status and activities of the reintroduction program.

THE MEXICAN WOLF INTERAGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

- Participates in developing and reviewing annual Mexican Wolf Interagency Management Plan.
- Advises the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader on issues related to wolf reintroduction.
- Provides a forum to evaluate the status and progress of the reintroduction project.
- Provides a forum for coordination of law enforcement activities.
- Provides a forum for evaluation and improvement of interagency cooperation on reintroduction.
- Provides a forum to consider citizen concerns regarding the reintroduction project.
- Provides a forum for exchange of information regarding wolf reintroduction in the Southwest.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Contact Information for Personnel Involved.

NOTES: THE USFWS TOLL-FREE MEXICAN WOLF PHONE NUMBER IS 1-(888) 459-WOLF (or -9653). Law enforcement and veterinary contacts are listed at the end.

*** indicates members of the Interagency Management Advisory Group (IMAG).**

Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader and IMAG Leader

*David Parsons

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
Tel: (505) 248-6656
Fax: (505) 248-6922
E-mail: david_parsons@fws.gov

Interagency Field Team

*Wendy Brown, IFT Leader
USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
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Fax: (505) 248-6922
E-mail: wendy_brown@fws.gov

Diane Boyd-Heger
AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist

Arizona Game and Fish Department
PO Box 838
Alpine, Arizona 85920
Tel: (520) 339-4329
Fax: (520) 339-4218

*Alan Armistead, Wolf Management
Specialist

USDA - Wildlife Services:
PO Box 1579
Springerville, AZ 85938
Tel: (520) 333-4142
Fax: (520) 333-2127
Mobile: (520) 521-1038

Biological Technician
(assist the IFT members)

Paul Morey
Mexican Wolf Field Office
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Tel: (520) 339-4329

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Fax: (520) 339-4218
E-mail: Howl@cybertrails.com

Mexican Wolf Field Office

Mexican Wolf Field Office
P.O. Box 856
Alpine, AZ 85920
Tel: (520) 339-4329
Fax: (520) 339-4218

Other Personnel Involved

Apache County:

*Cathy Cosgrove
Apache County
PO Box 238
St. Johns, AZ 85936
Tel: (520) 337-4364 x428
Fax: (520) 337-2062
E-mail: CRCOSG@Co.Apache.Az.US

Apache-Sitgreaves Nat'l Forest:

*Terry Myers, Rare Species Coordinator
Apache- Sitgreaves National Forest Supervisors Office
PO Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938
Tel: (520) 333-4301
Fax: (520) 333-6357

Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Supervisors Office
PO Box 640
Springerville, AZ 85938
Tel: (520) 333-4301
Fax: (520) 333-6357

*Bob Csargo, District Biologist
A-SNF, Clifton Ranger District
HC1 Box 733
Duncan, AZ 85534
Tel: (520) 687-1301
Fax: (520) 687-1614

Juan Romero, Wildlife Manager
A-SNF, Clifton Ranger District
HC1 Box 733
Duncan, AZ 85534
Tel: (520) 687-1032

Alpine Ranger District
P.O. Box 469
Alpine, AZ 85920
Tel: (520) 339-4384

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Clifton Ranger District
Box 733
Duncan, AZ 85534
Tel: (520) 687-1301

Lakeside Ranger District
Box B-50
Pinetop-Lakeside, AZ 85929
Tel: (520) 368-5111

Springerville Ranger District
P.O. Box 760
Springerville, AZ 85929
Tel: (520) 333-4372

Arizona Game and Fish Department

Terry B. Johnson
Endangered Species Coordinator
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4312
Tel: (602) 789-3507
E-mail: tjohnson@gf.state.az.us

William E. Van Pelt
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Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4312
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* Richard R. Remington,
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J. Robert Vahle
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Regional Wildlife Program Manager
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Daniel J. Groebner, Regional Nongame Specialist
Arizona Game and Fish Department

1998 Mexican Wolf Interagency Management Plan

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Bruce Sitko, Media Coordinator
Region I, Information and Education Program Manager
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Jim Hinkle
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Eager, AZ. 85925
Tel: (520) 333-4521

Catron County:

*Adam Polley, County Manager
Catron County
PO Box 507
Reserve, NM 87830
Tel: (505) 533-6423
Fax: (505) 533-6433
E-mail: polleya@wnmc.net

Defenders of Wildlife:

Craig Miller
Southwest Regional Office
Defenders of Wildlife
6020 S. Camino de la Tierra
Tucson, AZ 85746
Tel: (520) 578-9334
E-mail: cmiller@defenders.org

Gila National Forest:

*Jerry Monzingo, Biologist
Gila National Forest Supervisors Office
3005 E. Camino del Bosque
Silver City, NM 88061
Tel: (505) 388-8273
Fax: (505) 388-8204

Gila National Forest Supervisors Office
3005 E. Camino del Bosque
Silver City, NM 88061
Tel: (505) 388-8201

Black Range Ranger District
1804 Date Street
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
Tel: (505) 894-6677

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Glenwood Ranger District
Box 8
Glenwood, NM 88039
Tel: (505) 539-2481

Quemado Ranger District
Box 159
Quemado, NM 87829
Tel: (505) 773-4678

Reserve Ranger District
Box 170
Reserve, NM 87830
Tel: (505) 533-6232

Silver City Ranger District
3005 E. Camino del Bosque
Silver City, NM 88061
Tel: (505) 538-2250

Wilderness Ranger District
Route 11, Box 50
Mimbres, NM 88049
Tel: (505) 536-2250

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
Rt. 11, Box 100
Silver City, NM 88061
Tel: (505) 536-9461

Gila Visitor Center
Rt. 11, Box 100
Silver City, NM 88061
Tel: (505) 536-9461

Grant County:

*Ron Henderson
PO Box 898
Silver City, NM 88062
Tel: (505) 388-4227
Grant County #: (505) ~~538-3338~~ 574-0000
E-mail: hendy@lascruces.com

New Mexico Dep't of Agriculture:

*Jed Elrod, Wildlife Resources Specialist
New Mexico Dep't of Agriculture
Div. of Agricultural and Environmental Services
PO Box 30005 - Dept. 3AQ
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8005
Tel: (505) 646-2133

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New Mexico Dep't of Game and Fish:

*Dr. James Bailey, Ass't Chief
Conservation Services Div.
New Mexico Dep't of Game and Fish
141 E. DeVargas St.
Santa Fe, NM 87504
Tel: (505) 827-7884
Fax: (505) 827-7801
E-mail: j_bailey@gmfsh.state.nm.us

Eddie Bennett
Conservation Education Specialist
Conservation Services Division
New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
141 E. DeVargas
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Tel: (505) 827-7882

San Carlos Apache Tribe:

*Paul Nosie, Director, Wildlife Dep't
San Carlos Apache Tribe
PO Box 97
San Carlos, AZ 85550
Tel: (520) 475-2343
Fax: (520) 475-2701

Sierra County:

*Sandi Chatfield, County Treasurer
Alternate: Ralph Gooding
Sierra County
311 Date Street
Truth or Consequences, NM 87901
Tel: (505) 894-3524
Fax: (505) 894-3042

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Wildlife Services:**

IMAG Alternate: Tom Hoffman, Ass't Reg'l
Director
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
WS Western Regional Office
2nd floor, Suite 204
12345 W. Alameda
Lakewood, CO 80228
Tel: (303) 969-6565 x231

Steve Faraizl, State Director
Arizona State Office
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
2224 W. Desert Cove, Suite 209
Phoenix, AZ 85029
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Fax: (602) 870-2951

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Alex Lara, State Director
New Mexico State Office
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
2113 Osuna NE, Suite B
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001
Tel: (505) 761-4640
Fax: (505) 761-4627

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

Colleen Buchanan
Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility Manager
P.O. Box 1248
Socorro, NM 87801
Work: (505) 864-4021
Fax: (505) 864-7761
Cell: (505) 269-1381

Peter Jenkins, IMAG Coordinator (Contractor)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
Tel: (505) 248-6660, or 867-0641 (Biopolicy Consulting)
Fax: (505) 248-6922, or (505) 771-0737
Email: peter_jenkins@fws.gov or jenkinsbiopolicy@msn.com

Hans Stuart, Public Information Officer
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103
Tel: (505) 248-6909
Fax: (505) 248-6915
E-mail: Hans_Stuart@fws.gov

White Mountain Apache Tribe:

*Merle Baha, Sensitive Species Tech.
Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Div.
White Mountain Apache Tribe
PO Box 220
Whiteriver, AZ 85941
Tel: (520) 338-4385
Fax: (520) 338-1712

Law Enforcement Contacts

Kenny Kessler, Special Agent
Division of Law Enforcement
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2415 Princeton Dr. NE, Suite D
Albuquerque, NM 87107
Tel: (505) 883-6715
Fax: (505) 883-6716
Pager: (888) 556-1458

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Also in Albuquerque: Cindy Schroeder, Special Agent
Tel: (505) 883-7828
Pager: (888) 556-1457

Frank Shoemaker
Assistant Regional Director/Law Enforcement,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
PO Box 1306
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306
Tel: (505) 248-7889
Fax: (505) 248-7899

Michael Lucckino, Special Agent
Division of Law Enforcement
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
26 N. McDonald, #105
Mesa, AZ 85201
Tel: (602) 835-8289
Pager: (888)556-0661
Fax: (602) 890-1957

Also at Mesa: Steve Middleton, Special Agent
Tel: (602) 835-8289
Pager: (888) 556-0660

AGFD Phoenix Radio Dispatch (24 hrs):(602) 255-5507

AGFD Operation Game Thief: (800) 352-0700

NMDGF Santa Fe Radio Dispatch (24 hrs):(505) 827-9376

NMDGF Operation Game Thief: (800) 432-4263

NMDGF District Offices: (all in 505 area code):
Cliff 388-3772; Deming 546-9784; Hatch 267-3523; Las
Cruces 522-9796; Quemado 773-4845; Reserve 533-6201;
Silver City 388-5416; Socorro 854-2094; Truth or
Consequences 894-1284.

Dr. Richard Stroud
USFWS National Fish and Wildlife Service Forensic Lab.
1490 East Main St.
Ashland, Oregon 97520
Tel: (503) 482-4191
Fax: (503) 482-4989

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Veterinary Contacts:

Peter O. ("Ollie) Alcumbrac, Project Veterinarian
White Mountain Animal Hospital
1939 W. White Mountain Blvd.
Lakeside, AZ 85929
Tel: (520)368-8425

Linda Glazer or Lynn Creekmore
National Wildlife Health Center
6006 Schroeder Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53711
Tel: (608) 271-4640

APPENDIX 2



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

P.O. Box 1306

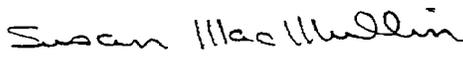
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103

In Reply Refer To:
Region 2/ES-SE

MAY 20 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: David R. Parsons, Mexican Wolf Coordinator, FWS, Region 2

FROM:  Regional Director, Region 2 

SUBJECT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Permit PRT-676811

Your U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Subpermit PRT-676811 is renewed as follows:

I. GENERAL PERMIT CONDITIONS

- A. You and others specified in sections II. A. and B. below are authorized through April 15, 1998, to use the Regional Director's blanket U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Permit PRT-676811 as subpermittees.
- B. Terms and conditions of this permit are inclusive. Any activity not specifically permitted is prohibited.
- C. Disposal, transplant, or release of live Mexican wolves taken or held under the terms of this permit or any previously issued permit, unless specifically authorized, shall be consistent with a current Service-approved management plan or special management measure or require prior written approval by the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader. Dead Mexican wolves or their parts taken or possessed under terms of this subpermit shall be disposed of as directed by the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or as specified within a Service-approved management plan or special management measure. A copy of the permit and this letter, along with a cover letter which references your permit number, must accompany each shipment and must be retained with the specimens. The cover letter must specify who will receive the specimens and the numbers involved. A copy of the letter must be furnished to the Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103. A copy should also be retained in your files.

Transfers deviating from the above conditions require prior written approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- D. An **annual** report of the activities conducted (including field data forms, if appropriate) under authority of this permit must be submitted to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, on or about the anniversary date that this permit was issued. Reports should include copies of any unpublished or published reports generated by the study and other data which would be useful for the conservation or recovery of the species. The reports should include one copy of U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute quad sheets or larger scale maps, or facsimile, depicting the sites where the listed species covered by this permit were found or not found. Any report completed after the annual anniversary date, but resulting from these permitted activities, must be sent to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader immediately upon completion. Failure to furnish required reporting information is cause for revocation and/or future denial of the permit.
- E. In the event one unauthorized mortality occurs to the species during permitted activities, all operations must immediately cease and you are required to contact the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader within 24 hours. You may commence activities authorized by this subpermit only upon written authorization from the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader.
- F. Please note that this permit is limited to the below activities and species and is functional only when used in combination with a valid state permit, if the state requires a permit.
- G. This permit does not, either directly or by implication, allow or grant right of trespass. Such permission must be obtained in writing from the landowner or land managing agency.
- H. You are not authorized to conduct scientific research and recovery activity on Indian Tribal lands without applying for and receiving a permit or written agreement from the appropriate Indian Tribal Government(s) for any species that are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. You are required to furnish the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, with a copy of the permit or written agreement issued to you by the Indian Tribal Government(s).

- I. You must have a copy of this permit (renewal) letter, the permit, and all previous amendments (if applicable, as all prior permit conditions remain the same) in your possession while conducting the authorized activities.
- J. A request for renewal, if appropriate, must be submitted to the Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services at least 90 days prior to the expiration date of the current permit.

II. SPECIES-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- A. You, Wendy M. Brown, Colleen Buchanan, future project staff (to be named when hired), future project contractors (to be named when contracted), official agency volunteers (to be named when enlisted), and other persons as may, from time to time, be directed or designated by you are authorized for **scientific research and recovery purposes related directly to the propagation and management of captive Mexican wolves (Canis lupus baileyi)**, to capture; handle; provide medical treatment and immunizations to; propagate; conduct Service-approved research activities on; obtain and preserve blood, tissue, semen, and ova and other samples from; transport between approved Mexican wolf captive management facilities; and carry out any other Service-approved husbandry practice or management action for captive Mexican wolves within the states of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and other states where captive Mexican wolves are held.
- B. You, Wendy M. Brown, Diane Boyd (Arizona Game and Fish Department), Dan Groebner (Arizona Game and Fish Department), Alan Armistead (USDA Wildlife Services), future project staff (to be named when hired), future project contractors (to be named when contracted), official agency volunteers (to be named when enlisted), and other persons as may, from time to time, be directed or designated by you are authorized for **scientific research and recovery purposes related directly to the conservation and protection of reintroduced nonessential experimental populations of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico**. As subpermittees you and others specified in this paragraph are authorized to carry out any management or research activity authorized by the **current Mexican Wolf Nonessential Experimental Population Rule (50 CFR 17.84(k))**, or any current Service-approved management plan or special management measure adopted by the Service pursuant to provisions of **50 CFR 17.84(k)(3)(ix)**.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

3-201
118 081

FEDERAL FISH AND WILDLIFE PERMIT

1. PERMITTEE

FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, REGION 2
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 1306 (500 GOLD AVE. SW)
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87103

2. AUTHORITY-STATUTES

16 USC 1539 (a)
16 USC 1533 (d)

REGULATIONS (ARRAYS)

50 CFR 17.22
50 CFR 17.32

3. NUMBER

PRT-676811

4. RENEWABLE

YES
 NO

5. MAY COPY

YES
 NO

6. EFFECTIVE

7. EXPIRES

4/15/93 4/15/93

8. NAME AND TITLE OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER (IN P. 1 & 2)

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

9. TYPE OF PERMIT

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES

10. LOCATION WHERE AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY MAY BE CONDUCTED

TAKE: WITHIN USFWS REGION 2
IMPORT & EXPORT BETWEEN THE U.S., CANADA, AND MEXICO: THROUGH
ANY PORT LISTED IN 50 CFR 14.12 OR 14.16.

11. CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS:

A. GENERAL CONDITIONS SET OUT IN SUBPART D OF 50 CFR 13, AND SPECIFIC CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN FEDERAL REGULATIONS CITED IN BLOCK #2 ABOVE, ARE HEREBY MADE A PART OF THIS PERMIT. ALL ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED HEREIN MUST BE CARRIED OUT IN ACCORD WITH AND FOR THE PURPOSES DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED. CONTINUED VALIDITY OR RENEWAL OF THIS PERMIT IS SUBJECT TO COMPLETE AND TIMELY COMPLIANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE CONDITIONS, INCLUDING THE FILING OF ALL REQUIRED INFORMATION AND REPORTS.

B. THE VALIDITY OF THIS PERMIT IS ALSO CONDITIONED UPON STRICT OBSERVANCE OF ALL APPLICABLE FOREIGN, STATE, LOCAL OR OTHER FEDERAL LAW.

C. VALID FOR USE BY PERMITTEE NAMED ABOVE

D. Acceptance of this permit serves as evidence that the permittee understands and agrees to abide by the "Special Conditions for Marine Mammals and Native Endangered and Threatened Species" (copy attached).

E. Authorized to take listed species identified on the attached sheets for scientific purposes or the enhancement of propagation or survival for approved recovery activities and as conditioned below.

F. Prior to conducting any activities not excluded under the Service's NEPA categorical exclusions (516 DM 6, Appendix I) the permittee must ensure that all NEPA requirements have been satisfied.

...Continued...

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS AND AUTHORIZATIONS ON REVERSE ALSO APPLY

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

ANNUAL REPORT DUE December 1, 1993. A complete report of activities (three copies) must be submitted to the Division of Endangered Species/Permits, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103.

ISSUED BY

Therese Jacobson

TITLE

CHIEF, BRANCH OF PERMITS, OMA

DATE

4/15/93

ORIGINAL

APPENDIX 2

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- G. Permittee must monitor each action taken under this permit to assure that the limits specified in each subpermit are not exceeded, that research efforts and handling of individual species is not duplicated by overlapping research.
- H. This permit is conditioned upon all applicable policy and guidance.
- I. Subpermittee's may be designated in writing.
- J. Subpermittee's must be required to hold and transport living specimens captured in the wild according to the provisions and procedures outlined in professionally established protocols for the handling and transport of the affected species.
- K. Procedures must be instituted to ensure that disease transmission does not occur during tissue sampling or other invasive procedures and that such activities are only performed by persons skilled in the techniques of handling the affected species.
- L. The permittee must ensure that all appropriate Section 7 consultation requirements have been completed prior to initiating any otherwise permitted activities and that no action taken under this permit will violate subsection 7(a)(2) of the U.S. Endangered Species Act.

Appendix 3. The Final Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Rule.

Below is the final Mexican wolf experimental population rule, adopted as a Federal regulation in 50 CFR section 17.84. These provisions begin at 63 Federal Register p. 1763 (Jan. 12, 1998). Figs 1, 2, and 3 (maps of the recovery areas) are not included.

3. The Service amends § 17.84 by adding paragraph (k) to read as follows:

§ 17.84 Special rules—vertebrates.

(k) Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*).

(1) The Mexican gray wolf (Mexican wolf) populations reestablished in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area and in the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, if used, within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, identified in paragraph (k)(9) of this section, are one nonessential experimental population. This nonessential experimental population will be managed according to the following provisions.

(2) Based on the best available information, the Service finds that reintroduction of an experimental population of Mexican wolves into the subspecies' probable historic range will further the conservation of the Mexican wolf subspecies and of the gray wolf species; that the experimental population is not "essential," under 50 CFR 17.81(c)(2); that the experimental population is wholly separate geographically from any other wild gray wolf population or individual wild gray wolves; that no wild Mexican wolves are known to exist in the experimental population area or anywhere else; and that future migration of wild Mexican wolves into the experimental population area is not possible.

(3) No person, agency, or organization may "take" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] any wolf in the wild within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, except, as provided in this rule. The Service may investigate each take of a Mexican wolf and may refer the take of a wolf

contrary to this rule to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

(i) Throughout the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, you will not be in violation of the Act or this rule for "unavoidable and unintentional take" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] of a wolf. Such take must be non-negligent and incidental to a legal activity, such as military training and testing, trapping, driving, or recreational activities. You must report the take within 24 hours to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or to a designated representative of the Service.

(ii) Throughout the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, you may "harass" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] wolves that are within 500 yards of people, buildings, facilities, pets, "livestock" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section], or other domestic animals in an opportunistic, noninjurious manner [see definition of "opportunistic, noninjurious harassment" in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] at any time—provided that wolves cannot be purposely attracted, tracked, searched out, or chased and then harassed. You must report harassment of wolves within 7 days to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or to a designated representative of the Service.

(iii) Throughout the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, excluding areas within the national park system and national wildlife refuge system, no Federal agency or their contractors will be in violation of the Act or this rule for unavoidable or unintentional take of a wolf resulting from any action authorized by that Federal agency or by the Service,

including, but not limited to, military training and testing. This provision does not exempt agencies and their contractors from complying with sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(4) of the Act, the latter of which requires a conference with the Service if they propose an action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Mexican wolf.

(iv) In areas within the national park system and national wildlife refuge system, Federal agencies must treat Mexican wolves as a threatened species for purposes of complying with section 7 of the Act.

(v) On private land anywhere within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, livestock owners or their agents may take (including kill or injure) any wolf actually "engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]; provided that evidence of livestock freshly wounded or killed by wolves is present; and further provided that the take is reported to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(vi) On tribal reservation land anywhere within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, livestock owners or their agents may take (including kill or injure) any wolf actually engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock; provided that evidence of livestock freshly wounded or killed by wolves is present; and further provided that the take is reported to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(vii) On "public lands" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] allotted for grazing anywhere within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, including within the designated "wolf recovery areas" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section], livestock owners or their agents may be issued a permit under the Act to take wolves actually engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting "livestock" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]. Before such a permit is issued, the following conditions must be met—livestock must be legally present on the grazing allotment; six or more "breeding pairs" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] of Mexican wolves must be present in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area; previous loss or injury of livestock on the grazing allotment, caused by wolves, must be documented by the Service or our authorized agent; and agency efforts to resolve the problem must be completed. Permits issued under this provision will be valid for 45 days or less and will specify the maximum number of wolves you are allowed to take. If you take a wolf under this provision, evidence of livestock freshly wounded or killed by wolves must be present. You must report the take to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(viii) Throughout the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, take of Mexican wolves by livestock guarding dogs, when used in the traditional manner to protect livestock on public, tribal, and private lands, is permitted. If you become aware that such take by your guard dog has occurred, you must report the take to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(ix) Personnel authorized by the Service may take any Mexican wolf in the nonessential experimental population in a manner consistent with a Service-approved management plan, special management measure, or a valid permit issued by the Service under § 17.32. This may include, but is not limited to, capture and translocation of wolves that—prey on livestock; attack pets or domestic animals other than livestock on private or tribal land; "impact game populations in ways which may inhibit further wolf recovery" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]; prey on members of the desert bighorn sheep herd found on the White Sands Missile Range and San Andres National Wildlife Refuge so long as the State of New Mexico lists it

as a species to be protected; are considered "problem wolves" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]; are a nuisance; endanger themselves by their presence in a military impact area; need aid or veterinary care; or are necessary for authorized scientific, research, or management purposes. Lethal methods of take may be used when reasonable attempts to capture wolves alive fail and when the Service determines that immediate removal of a particular wolf or wolves from the wild is necessary. Authorized personnel may use leg-hold traps and any other effective device or method for capturing or controlling wolves to carry out any measure that is a part of a Service-approved management plan, notwithstanding any conflicts in State or local law. The disposition of all wolves (live or dead) or their parts taken as part of a Service-authorized management activity must follow provisions in Service-approved management plans or interagency agreements or procedures approved by the Service on a case-by-case basis.

(x) As determined by the Service to be appropriate, the Service or any agent so authorized by the Service may capture, kill, subject to genetic testing, place in captivity, euthanize, or return to the wild (if found to be a pure Mexican wolf) any feral wolf-like animal, feral wolf hybrid, or feral dog found within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area that shows physical or behavioral evidence of hybridization with other canids, such as domestic dogs or coyotes; being an animal raised in captivity, other than as part of a Service-approved wolf recovery program; or being socialized or habituated to humans.

(xi) The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services (WS) division will discontinue use of M-44's and choking-type snares in "occupied Mexican wolf range" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]. The WS division may restrict or modify other predator control activities pursuant to a cooperative management agreement or a conference between the Service and the WS division.

(xii) You may harass or take a Mexican wolf in self defense or defense of the lives of others, provided that you report the harassment or take within 24 hours to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service. If the Service or an authorized agency determines that a wolf presents a threat to human life or safety, the Service or the authorized agency may kill it,

capture and euthanize it, or place it in captivity.

(xiii) Intentional taking of any wolf in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, except as described above, is prohibited. The Service encourages those authorized to take wolves to use nonlethal means when practicable and appropriate.

(4) You must not possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, ship, import, or export by any means whatsoever, any wolf or wolf part from the experimental population except as authorized in this rule or by a valid permit issued by the Service under § 17.32. If you kill or injure a wolf or find a dead or injured wolf or wolf parts, you must not disturb them (unless instructed to do so by an authorized agent of the Service), you must minimize your disturbance of the area around them, and you must report the incident to the Service's Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator or a designated representative of the Service within 24 hours.

(5) You must not attempt to commit, solicit another to commit, or cause to be committed, any offense defined in this rule.

(6) No land use restrictions will be imposed on private lands for Mexican wolf recovery without the concurrence of the landowner.

(7) No land use restrictions will be imposed on tribal reservation lands for Mexican wolf recovery without the concurrence of the tribal government.

(8) On public lands, the Service and cooperating agencies may temporarily restrict human access and "disturbance-causing land use activities" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section] within a 1-mile radius around release pens when wolves are in them, around active dens between March 1 and June 30, and around active wolf "rendezvous sites" [see definition in paragraph 17.84(k)(15) of this section] between June 1 and September 30, as necessary.

(9) The two designated wolf recovery areas and the experimental population area for Mexican wolves classified as a nonessential experimental population by this rule are described in the following subsections. Both designated wolf recovery areas are within the subspecies' probable historic range and are wholly separate geographically from the current range of any known Mexican wolves or other gray wolves.

(i) The Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area includes all of the Apache National Forest and all of the Gila National Forest in east-central Arizona and west-central New Mexico (Figure 1). Initial releases of captive-raised Mexican wolves will take place,

generally as described in our Preferred Alternative in the FEIS on Mexican wolf reintroduction, within the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area "primary recovery zone" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]. This is the area within the Apache National Forest bounded on the north by the Apache-Greenlee County line; on the east by the

Arizona-New Mexico state line; on the south by the San Francisco River (eastern half) and the southern boundary of the Apache National Forest (western half); and on the west by the Greenlee-Graham County line (San Carlos Apache Reservation boundary). The Service will allow the wolf population to expand into the Blue

Range Wolf Recovery Area "secondary recovery zone" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section], which is the remainder of the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area not in the primary recovery zone.

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(ii) The White Sands Wolf Recovery Area in south-central New Mexico includes all of the White Sands Missile Range; the White Sands National Monument; the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge; and the area adjacent and to the west of the Missile Range bounded on the south by the southerly boundary of the USDA Jornada Experimental Range and the northern boundary of the New Mexico State University Animal Science Ranch, on the west by the New Mexico Principal Meridian, on the north by the Pedro Armendaris Grant boundary and the

Sierra-Socorro County line, and on the east by the western boundary of the Missile Range (Figure 2). This is the back-up reintroduction area, to be used only if later determined to be both necessary and feasible in accordance with the Preferred Alternative as set forth in the FEIS on Mexican wolf reintroduction. If this area is used, initial releases of captive-raised wolves would take place within the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area primary recovery zone. This is the area within the White Sands Missile Range bounded on the north by the road from the former

Cain Ranch Head quarters to Range Road 16, Range Road 16 to its intersection with Range Road 13, Range Road 13 to its intersection with Range Road 7; on the east by Range Road 7; on the south by Highway 70; and on the west by the Missile Range boundary. The Service would allow the wolf population to expand into the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area secondary recovery zone, which is the remainder of the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area not in the primary recovery zone.

BILLING CODE 4310-65-P

(iii) The boundaries of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area are the portion of Arizona lying north of Interstate Highway 10 and south of Interstate Highway 40; the portion of New Mexico lying north of Interstate Highway 10 in the west, north of the New Mexico-Texas boundary in the east, and south of Interstate Highway 40; and the portion of Texas lying north of United States Highway 62/180 and south of the Texas-New Mexico boundary (Figure 3). The Service is not proposing wolf reestablishment throughout this area, but only within the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, and possibly later in the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, respectively described

in paragraphs (k)(9) (i) and (ii) of this section. If a member of the nonessential experimental population is captured inside the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, but outside the designated wolf recovery areas, it will be re-released within the recovery area, put into the captive population, or otherwise managed according to provisions of a Service-approved management plan or action. If a wolf is found in the United States outside the boundaries of the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area (and not within any other wolf experimental population area) the Service will presume it to be of wild origin with full endangered status (or threatened in

Minnesota) under the Act, unless evidence, such as a radio collar, identification mark, or physical or behavioral traits (see paragraph (k)(3)(x) of this section), establishes otherwise. If such evidence exists, the Service or an authorized agency will attempt to promptly capture the wolf and re-release it within the recovery area, put it into the captive population, or carry out any other management measure authorized by this rule or a Service-approved management plan. Such a wolf is otherwise not subject to this rule outside the designated Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

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(10) If Mexican wolves of the experimental population occur on public lands outside the designated wolf recovery area(s), but within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, the Service or an authorized agency will attempt to capture any radio-collared lone wolf and any lone wolf or member of an established pack causing livestock "depredations" [see definition in paragraph (k)(15) of this section]. The agencies will not routinely capture and return pack members that make occasional forays onto public land outside the designated wolf recovery area(s) and uncollared lone wolves on public land. However, the Service will capture and return to a recovery area or to captivity packs from the nonessential experimental population that establish territories on public land wholly outside the designated wolf recovery area(s).

(11) If any wolves move onto private land outside the designated recovery area(s), but within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, the Service or an authorized agency will develop management actions in cooperation with the landowner including capture and removal of the wolf or wolves if requested by the landowner.

(12) If any wolves move onto tribal reservation land outside the designated recovery area(s), but within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area, the Service or an authorized agency will develop management actions in cooperation with the tribal government including capture and removal of the wolf or wolves if requested by the tribal government.

(13) The Service will evaluate Mexican wolf reintroduction progress and prepare periodic progress reports, detailed annual reports, and full evaluations after 3 and 5 years that recommend continuation, modification, or termination of the reintroduction effort.

(14) The Service does not intend to change the "nonessential experimental" designation to "essential experimental," "threatened," or "endangered" and foresees no likely situation which would result in such changes. Critical habitat cannot be designated under the nonessential experimental classification, 16 U.S.C. 1539(j)(2)(C)(ii).

(15) Definitions—Key terms used in this rule have the following definitions.

Breeding pair means an adult male and an adult female wolf that have produced at least two pups during the previous breeding season that survived until December 31 of the year of their birth.

Depredation means the confirmed killing or wounding of lawfully present

domestic livestock by one or more wolves. The Service, WS, or other Service-authorized agencies will confirm cases of wolf depredation on domestic livestock.

Disturbance-causing land use activity means any land use activity that the Service determines could adversely affect reproductive success, natural behavior, or survival of Mexican wolves. These activities may be temporarily restricted within a 1-mile radius of release pens, active dens, and rendezvous sites. Such activities may include, but are not limited to—timber or wood harvesting, management-ignited fire, mining or mine development, camping outside designated campgrounds, livestock drives, off-road vehicle use, hunting, and any other use or activity with the potential to disturb wolves. The following activities are specifically excluded from this definition—

(1) Legally permitted livestock grazing and use of water sources by livestock;

(2) Livestock drives if no reasonable alternative route or timing exists;

(3) Vehicle access over established roads to private property and to areas on public land where legally permitted activities are ongoing if no reasonable alternative route exists;

(4) Use of lands within the national park or national wildlife refuge systems as safety buffer zones for military activities;

(5) Prescribed natural fire except in the vicinity of release pens; and

(6) Any authorized, specific land use that was active and ongoing at the time wolves chose to locate a den or rendezvous site nearby.

Engaged in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock means to be engaged in the pursuit and grasping, biting, attacking, wounding, or feeding upon livestock that are alive. If wolves are observed feeding on a livestock carcass, you cannot assume that wolves killed the livestock because livestock can die from many causes and wolves will feed on carrion.

Harass means "intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to the wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering" (50 CFR 17.3). This experimental population rule permits only "opportunistic, noninjurious harassment" (see definition below).

Impact on game populations in ways which may inhibit further wolf recovery. The Service encourages states and tribes to define unacceptable impacts from wolf predation on game populations in

Service-approved management plans. Until such time the term will mean the following—2 consecutive years with a cumulative 35 percent decrease in population or hunter harvest estimates for a particular species of ungulate in a game management unit or distinct herd segment compared to the pre-wolf 5-year average (unit or herd must contain average of greater than 100 animals). If wolf predation is shown to be a primary cause of ungulate population declines (greater than 50 percent of documented adult or young mortality), then wolves may be moved to reduce ungulate mortality rates and assist in herd recovery, but only in conjunction with application of other common, professionally acceptable, wildlife management techniques.

Livestock means cattle, sheep, horses, mules, and burros or other domestic animals defined as livestock in State and Tribal wolf management plans approved by the Service.

Occupied Mexican wolf range means an area of confirmed presence of resident breeding packs or pairs of wolves or area consistently used by at least one resident wolf over a period of at least one month. The Service must confirm or corroborate wolf presence. Exact delineation of the area will be described by:

(1) 5-mile (8 km) radius around all locations of wolves and wolf sign confirmed as described above (nonradio-monitored);

(2) 5-mile (8 km) radius around radio locations of resident wolves when fewer than 20 radio locations are available (for radio-monitored wolves only); or

(3) 3-mile (4.8 km) radius around the convex polygon developed from more than 20 radio locations of a pack, pair, or single wolf acquired over a period of at least 6 months (for radio-monitored wolves).

This definition applies only within the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area.

Opportunistic, noninjurious harassment (see "harass") means as the wolf presents itself (for example, the wolf travels onto and is observed on private land or near livestock). This is the only type of harassment permitted by this rule. You cannot track, attract, search out, or chase a wolf and then harass it. Any harassment must not cause bodily injury or death to the wolf. The basic intent of harassment permitted by this rule is to scare wolves away from the immediate area. It is limited to approaching wolves and discharging firearms or other projectile launching devices in proximity to but not in the direction of wolves; throwing objects in the general direction of but

not at wolves; or making any loud noise in proximity to wolves.

Primary recovery zone means an area where the Service—

- (1) Will release captive-raised Mexican wolves,
- (2) May return and re-release previously released Mexican wolves,
- (3) May release translocated wild-born Mexican wolves, and
- (4) Will actively support recovery of the reintroduced population.

Problem wolves means wolves that—

- (1) Have depredated lawfully present domestic livestock,
- (2) Are members of a group or pack (including adults, yearlings, and young-of-the-year) that were directly involved in livestock depredations,
- (3) Were fed by or are dependent upon adults involved with livestock depredations (because young animals will likely acquire the pack's livestock depredation habits),
- (4) Have depredated domestic animals other than livestock on private or tribal lands, two times in an area within one year, or
- (5) Are habituated to humans, human residences, or other facilities.

Public land means land under administration of Federal agencies including, but not limited to the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Department of Energy, and Department of Defense; and State-owned lands within the boundary of a designated wolf recovery area. All State-owned lands within the boundary of the experimental population area, but outside designated wolf recovery areas, will be subject to the provisions of this rule that apply to private lands.

Rendezvous site means a gathering and activity area regularly used by a litter of young wolf pups after they have emerged from the den. Typically, the site is used for a period ranging from about one week to one month in the summer. Several sites may be used in succession.

Secondary recovery zone means an area adjacent to a primary recovery zone in which the Service allows released wolves to disperse, where wolves captured in the wild for authorized management purposes may be translocated and released, and where managers will actively support recovery of the reintroduced population.

Take means "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S.C. 1532(19)).

Also, see definitions of "harass", "opportunistic, noninjurious harassment", and "unavoidable and

Unavoidable and unintentional take means accidental, unintentional take (see definition of "Take") which occurs despite reasonable care, is incidental to an otherwise lawful activity, and is not done on purpose. Examples would be striking a wolf with an automobile and catching a wolf in a trap outside of known occupied wolf range. Taking a wolf with a trap, snare, or other type of capture device within occupied wolf range (except as authorized in paragraph (k)(3)(ix) and (x) of this section) will not be considered unavoidable, accidental, or unintentional take, unless due care was exercised to avoid taking a wolf. Taking a wolf by shooting will not be considered unavoidable, accidental, or unintentional take. Shooters have the responsibility to be sure of their targets.

Wolf recovery area means a designated area where managers will actively support reestablishment of Mexican wolf populations.

Dated: January 7, 1998.

William Leary,
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

**Appendix 4: Husbandry Protocol for the Mexican Wolves
in the BRWRA Release Pens.**

INTRODUCTION

Family groups of captive raised Mexican wolves (*Canis lupus baileyi*) will be released from pens in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). Three pens have been built in three remote locations within the BRWRA and up to four more may be built. Typically, one family group (two to ten wolves) will be moved into each of three of these pens in January. In March or April, these family groups will be released to the wild from these pens. (Procedures may vary from year to year.) The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for the care and management of these wolves during their brief stay in the release pens.

The purpose of their stay in these pens is to encourage the family groups to stay in the area of the release pens and most importantly within the BRWRA. The theory is that, the wolves will mate and conceive in the months of February and March, and will need to dig a den and stay with the pups born in April or May. They will be socially tied to the area of the relatively immobile pups until midsummer. If the wolf families are successful at this, they will likely establish a territory in that area. Their approximately ten weeks in the release pens will also acclimate them to the BRWRA environment.

The wolf families selected for the release will have already been preconditioned for their life in the wild at facilities such as the Sevilleta Wolf Management Facility (WMF). **The role of the caretaker at the BRWRA release pens is to maintain the fitness of the wolves while minimizing human presence.**

THE RELEASE PENS

The three release pens are teardrop shaped with a management pen at the small end. See Figure 1. The distance from the pen to the access road varies from 50 to 300 yards. Caretaker access to the main enclosure is through the management pen. The ten-foot gate at the far end of the main enclosure will be opened only for the release. The purpose of the double walled barrier between the main enclosure and the management pen is to facilitate the capture and sorting of wolves if such actions are necessary.

THE CONDITION OF THE WOLVES UPON ARRIVAL AT THE RELEASE PENS

Each wolf arriving at the release site was selected from a pool of release candidates based on their demonstrated behavioral competence for survival in the wild. This competence was demonstrated and encouraged at a pre-release conditioning facility such as the Sevilleta WMF. The candidate release pool in turn had been selected from the captive population based on their more

common genetic kinship to the rest of the captive population, their age and the genetic health and composition of the pups that the selected pairs would produce.

When the wolves arrive at the release pens, they will be physically fit for release. To assure this, each wolf will have had a complete health assessment and the necessary vaccinations within three months before going to the release pens. This health assessment will include:

- A physical examination by a veterinarian noting general condition and any physical abnormalities;
- Blood drawn for a blood chemistry profile, CBC, and heart worm antigen; and
- Fecal tests for endoparasites.

Vaccinations received within the past three months should include DHLPP +C and killed rabies vaccine. See the Mexican Wolf SSP Husbandry Manual for details.

Each wolf arriving at the release pen will have two Trovan transponder chips inserted beneath the skin, one between the shoulder blades and one near the base of the tail. Each wolf will also be wearing a radio tracking collar at the time it is placed in the release pen.

Each wolf will have had blood drawn for DNA fingerprinting at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Lab in Ashland, Oregon.

THE CARETAKER'S ROUTINE

As a general guideline, the caretaker will visit the release pens only twice a week. Each pen site will differ and circumstances will determine if more or fewer visits are needed (e.g., additional visits to provide fresh carcasses are justified). At each visit the caretaker will:

- Check the *ad libitum* supply of water. When snow is available, it may not be necessary to provide water. Break through ice in water tubs if necessary.
- Provide a carcass, if needed and available. (Note: The wolves should not always have food made available to them. Occasional fasting is a necessary and appropriate concept the wolves need to be exposed to before being released to the wild. After a carcass has been completely eaten, fast for two or three days before providing another food source.)
- Provide kibble food at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds per wolf per day *only* if carcasses are not available.
- Note the amount of food eaten since the last feeding.
- Note the general appearance and behavior of the wolves.
- Note the condition of the enclosure and the electric fence.

Observations will be made during the caretaker routine *only*. The information gathered from doing additional observations is not enough to justify the stress (nervous pacing and running around) it causes to the wolves (chance of being undetected by the wolves is slim) and could interfere with breeding activity. Additionally, the likelihood of actually observing copulations is very slim and again does not justify the need for observations.

WATER

1998 Mexican Wolf Interagency Management Plan

Water should be provided *ad libitum*. The water should be changed as needed and be at least partially free of ice. Water should be provided within the management pen only. The presence of snow in the pen may lessen or eliminate the need for water. A galvanized metal tub will be used to hold drinking water. Water will need to be hauled in with water carriers.

FOOD AND FEEDING

When available, the wolves in the release pens will be fed carcasses of native prey, e.g., deer, elk, pronghorn, javelina, and beaver. Priority should be placed on the native prey that will be most available to the wolves after release. Whenever possible, carcasses should be fed whole (i.e. not eviscerated) and fresh. If eviscerated, carcasses should be dusted with a mineral/vitamin supplement ("Clovite") before feeding. Carcasses will be stored at the AGFD's Sipes Wildlife Area freezer.

There may be times when carcasses are not available. In such circumstances, wolves should be fed a kibble diet (Mazuri Exotic Canine Diet) at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds per wolf per day. This rate will vary depending on individual wolves. No domestic livestock or livestock products will be fed to the wolves under any circumstances.

CLEANING

Only the management pen should require cleaning during the acclimation period. The main enclosure should normally not be entered. The feces can be saved for trapping purposes or fecal analysis, and extra amounts tossed into the forest nearby as a territorial marker.

If the caretaker needs to work in the management pen for any period of time, the gates between the main pen and the management pen should be kept closed. This will allow the caretaker the option of leaving the caretaker access door open for major tasks. This might occur during cleaning, water filling, or hauling in large carcasses. Under most circumstances, the caretaker will only need to enter the management pen briefly to do necessary checks. During these brief visits, the gate to the outside must be closed after entering the management pen. **Always check the gate lock and the hot wire upon leaving the area.**

FENCE CHECKS

During the first week, the perimeter of the fence should be walked from the outside at each visit. This is the period when the wolves would most likely test the perimeter. Watch for digging near the four-foot dig skirt and for holes or breaks in the fencing. These should be repaired as soon as possible. Once the wolves settle in, check only every two to three weeks, unless circumstances indicate more frequent checks are necessary.

RADIO CHECKS

Radio signals of all wolves should be checked daily to assure none of the wolves have

escaped and left the area or died.

THE CARETAKER'S BEHAVIOR AROUND THE PENS

The caretaker should act in a manner that will lessen the likelihood that the wolves will have any positive interactions with humans and will minimize the wolves' contact with humans:

- At each visit spend as little time as possible in or around the pen.
- Be consistent in your behavior at every visit to the pen, e.g., move in the same direction and manner when feeding, cleaning or checking the fence.
- Additional people are not authorized in the vicinity of the pen. **Only the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or Mexican Wolf Biologist or their designee may authorize other people to visit the pens.**
- Do not interact with the wolves in any way (talking, howling, etc.).
- Maintain an air of confidence in your movements.
- Use the tracking receiver from a distance to verify the presence of all the wolves.
- Look for blood-soaked urine stains and other signs of pre-estrous in the alpha female wolf.

SOME NON-ROUTINE ACTIVITIES AT THE PENS

A. Veterinary Emergencies

It may happen that a wolf will become ill or injured. Watch for signs of illness such as lethargy, disorientation, excessive drooling, weepy eyes, runny nose or bloody stool. Report this or any injury immediately to the project veterinarian and consult with the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or Mexican Wolf Biologist or their designee and the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist. The group will determine a course of action, if action is necessary. The health and well-being of the captive wolf are a priority, as well as the impact of this problem on the future release.

B. Capture and Handling

If all goes according to plan, the wolves will never need to be captured or handled while in the release pen. Possible reasons for capture include a sick or injured wolf needing treatment, replacement of a radio collar, the need to remove an animal that is behaving improperly, or the need to move the wolves to another release site. Unless it is an emergency requiring immediate action, consult with the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee before handling an animal.

Capturing a wolf out of the main enclosure requires two or more experienced people. These people should enter the main enclosure through the management pen. They should leave one of the two doors to the main enclosure open as they pass through. They should move slowly together along the perimeter of the pen starting from the closed door. The intent is to slowly move the wolves into the management pen and then close the door. The wolves can then be sorted using the inner wall doors of the management pen. This is a process that requires sensitivity and experience to know when to push on and when to back off. Try again if it does not work the first time. Try not to panic or stress the wolves. They should be fairly accustomed to the management pen since they have to

enter it to eat or drink.

Once the wolf or wolves are in the management pen, use the inner gates to sort out the wolf that you want to handle. Once this wolf is isolated, approach slowly with a noose or net. Most of the time it will simply lie down in the corner where you can slip the noose over its head for restraint. Sometimes wolves jump or snap, but typically, with patience, they will calm down and you can noose them. If there are hiding places in the main enclosure, you may have a hard time extracting an adult wolf from a tight hiding place like a dug den. If you cannot get the wolves to go into the management pens, you will probably need to net them in the main enclosure. This is more difficult and stressful. Be prepared to deal with heat stress. It is always advised to have a veterinarian on hand for any handling.

Once noosed, a wolf is easily handled. You may want to muzzle the wolf for detailed handling. Chemical immobilization is rarely necessary. See the Mexican Wolf SSP Husbandry Manual for guidelines on chemical immobilization.

C. Escapes

Premature releases in the form of escapes are undesirable. If you find that one or two wolves have escaped the pen, secure the escape site, if you can determine it. Chase any wolves in the management pen into the main pen. Close the doors between the main enclosure and the management pen. Open the exterior door to the management pen. Then contact the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee for a plan of action. The escaped wolves may want to be with the captive wolves and may wander into the management pen for companionship or food where you might easily recapture them.

If all the wolves escape the pen, open all the gates and contact the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee for a plan of action.

D. Bears

Black bears may be attracted to the pens because of the presence of carcasses. The hot wire on the exterior of the pens should deter them from trying to break into the pen. Become familiar with testing and repairing the hot wire system. **Check it at each visit.** If you see bears loitering in the vicinity of the pens, contact the local Arizona Game and Fish Department and the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee.

E. Deaths

If a wolf dies in one of the release pens, the situation must first be considered a crime scene. USFWS Law Enforcement agents should be contacted immediately. They will contact other appropriate law enforcement agents. If a USFWS agent cannot be reached, then the Arizona Game and Fish Department law enforcement agent should be contacted. Immediately notify the USFWS Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader or his designee and the project veterinarian for further instructions. If it is necessary to physically examine the wolf to determine if it is sick or injured rather than dead, do so with minimal disturbance to the area. If law enforcement officers release the wolf carcass, keep it cool, but **do not freeze it.** A necropsy to determine cause of death can only be done on an

unfrozen carcass.

If good reason exists to believe that the lives of other wolves in the pen may be endangered by leaving the dead wolf in the pen, or if other wolves are or have been feeding on the dead wolf, contact the most readily available member of the IFT for a decision regarding removal of the dead wolf and any suspicious potential sources of toxins or other potential hazard to the live wolves.

F. Human Intruders

Release pens have been built in areas with low human density. However, due to the multiple uses of the area, some public activity is inevitable. Project personnel will note human activity in the vicinity of penned wolves and immediately inform the USFS Law Enforcement (LE) personnel and prepare a report of the incident. They will then notify the USFWS Mexican Wolf Biologist, the AGFD Mexican Wolf Biologist, and the Mexican Wolf Recovery Leader. If unauthorized visitors are encountered by project personnel in the restricted areas, they will be informed of the project and the rationale for the closure. Once a visitor is contacted, other project personnel will be informed. Specific intentions of visitors will be politely asked and potential conflicts and ways to avoid them will be discussed. If violation of the closure continues, USFS LE should again be contacted, since the closures are created through orders issued by the Forest Supervisor. In the event that no USFS LE personnel are available, or the violators threaten or attempt to threaten the wolves or project personnel, or to damage the pens or dens, then the USFWS LE personnel (or, if they are not available, Arizona or New Mexico LE personnel depending on location) should be contacted immediately. (LE contact information is in Appendix 1.)

EQUIPMENT LIST

- Three Extra-large (40"L x 27"W x 30"H) Vari-kennels
- Three five-foot catch (noose) poles
- Three large capture (salmon) nets
- Two large-dog muzzles
- Wheel barrow or cart
- Shovel and rake
- Refuse container and large plastic bags
- Three radios
- Report forms and clipboard
- Water tubs
- Waterproof carriers for kibble and Clovite
- Solar hot wire shocker and supplies

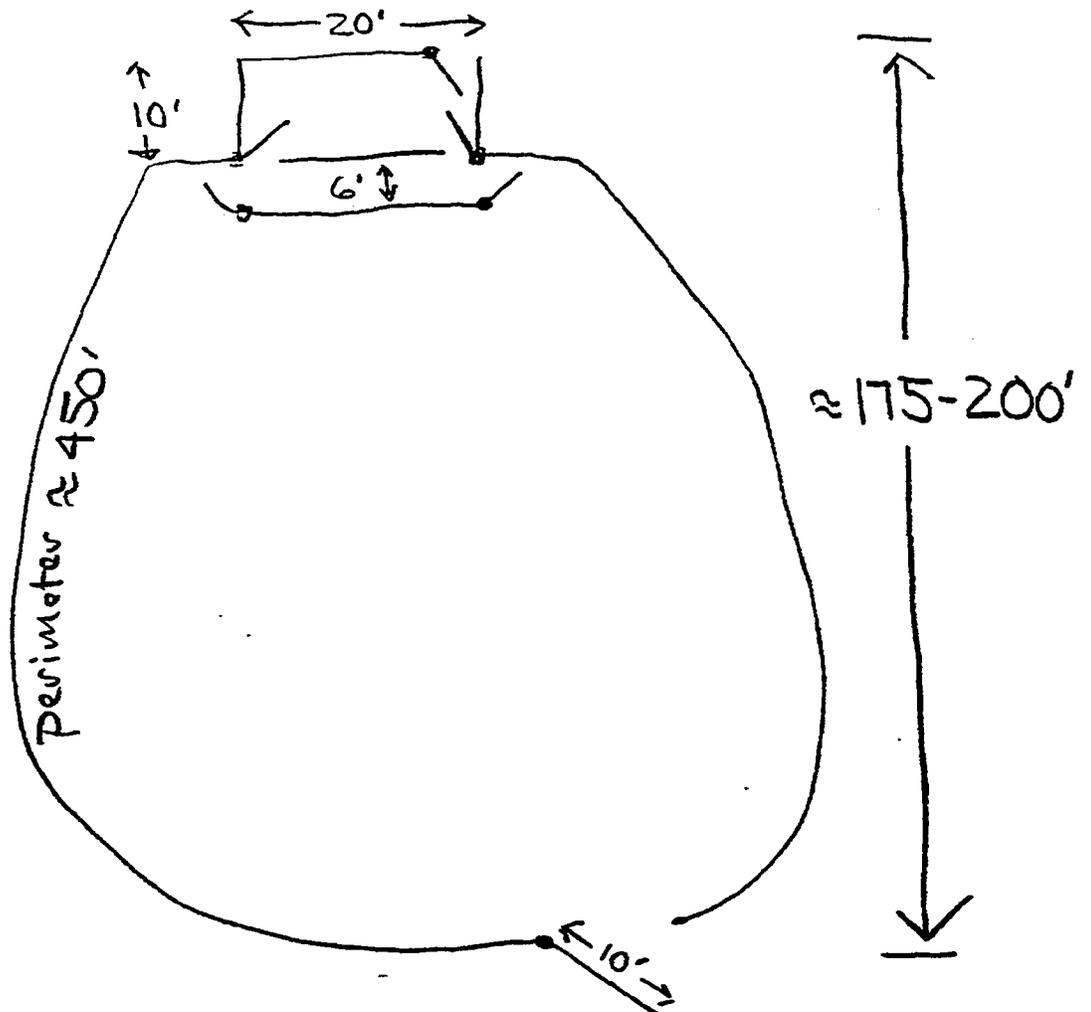
Figure 1. Generalized schematic of a Mexican wolf release pen.

Management Pen:

- 20' x 16' x 10'H
- 11g, 2" mesh chain link
- full chain-link roof
- 4' chain-link ground skirt

Main Enclosure:

- 10'H, 11g chain-link in 10'W panels clamped together and guyed to anchors
- 2' overhang @ 45°
- 4' ground skirt of 11g chain-link, anchored and covered with leaf litter
- solar hot wire at 1' and 5' outside
- one 10' release gate



Appendix 5. Pen Construction Mitigation Measures for Endangered Species.

These measures were provided to the USFWS by the Apache National Forest in its Biological Assessment and Evaluation of the release pen construction project and were incorporated into the approved action in the EA on the pen construction. Some of these obligations are ongoing.

Arizona hedgehog cactus - Due to the limited potential range of this cactus, the only potential sites to which the following mitigation measure applies are Turkey Creek and XXX Ranch: 1) the caretaker and release pen sites will be surveyed prior to implementing any ground-disturbing actions; no Arizona hedgehog cacti detected during these surveys will be disturbed.

Bald eagle - The following mitigation measure applies to all potential sites:

1) if a roost or nest is found within 0.25 miles of any pen site, the USFWS will consult with its Arizona Ecological Services Field Office to determine whether specific conservation actions are needed.

Mexican spotted owl - The following mitigation measures apply to all potential sites:

1) surveys will be conducted for potential Mexican spotted owl (MSO) habitats within 0.25 miles of all of the proposed pen sites during 1998, even if the sites will not be used until later years; if MSOs are found, the USFWS will consult with its Arizona Ecological Services Field Office to determine whether any additional conservation actions are needed; 2) removal of pens will be delayed until after August 31 unless surveys of potentially occupiable habitat within 0.25 miles of the pens indicate that MSOs are not present; 3) noise levels during the breeding season will be minimized to avoid exceeding ambient levels, utilizing sleds or other less noisy methods to transport carcasses to the wolves; and 4) the cutting of trees will be limited in "restricted" pine-oak habitats to pine trees less than 9 inches dbh; pen locations will be selected to avoid cutting down snags.

NOTE: Before conducting MSO surveys, the personnel proposed to do them should be listed on a valid MSO permit, such as the USFWS Arizona Ecological Services Field Office Supervisor's MSO ESA permit. In order to be added to that permit, the personnel must be approved by the USFWS MSO Biologist, Michelle James, based at the Flagstaff sub-office, tel: (520) 527-3042. Any non-permitted personnel must be accompanied by a permitted person.

Peregrine falcon - The following mitigation measures apply to all potential pen sites:

1) noise levels during the breeding season will be minimized to avoid exceeding ambient levels; 2) surveys for occupancy of all potentially suitable cliffs within one mile of the proposed sites will be conducted following Ward (1994); 3) attempts will be made to locate facilities associated with the caretaker and pen sites out of the line-of-sight of cliffs that might provide suitable habitat for eyrie construction; and 4) if an eyrie is found within one mile of any site, the USFWS will consult with its Arizona Ecological Services Field Office to determine whether any additional conservation actions are needed.

Appendix 6. Data Forms for the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program

Note: The attached forms are adapted from similar forms used in the northern Rocky Mountains. Use of these forms is described in Chap. H - Wolf Monitoring and Chap. I - Control of Mexican Wolves, above.

Form A: Mexican Wolf Complaint Investigation Form

Form B: Mexican Wolf Capture and Handling Data Form

Form C: Mexican Wolf Location Sheet

Form D: Mexican Wolf Prey Carcass Sheet

____ Year - ____ No. In Year

Mexican Wolf Complaint Investigation Form

Investigator(s): _____

Date Complaint Received: _____ Date Investigated: _____

Livestock Owner: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ County: _____

Land Ownership: []Private []FS []BLM []State []Tribal []Other _____

Type of Livestock: []Sheep []Cattle []Horse []Other _____

Losses and/or property damage: []# Unconfirmed []Dollar Value

[]# Confirmed []Dollar Value

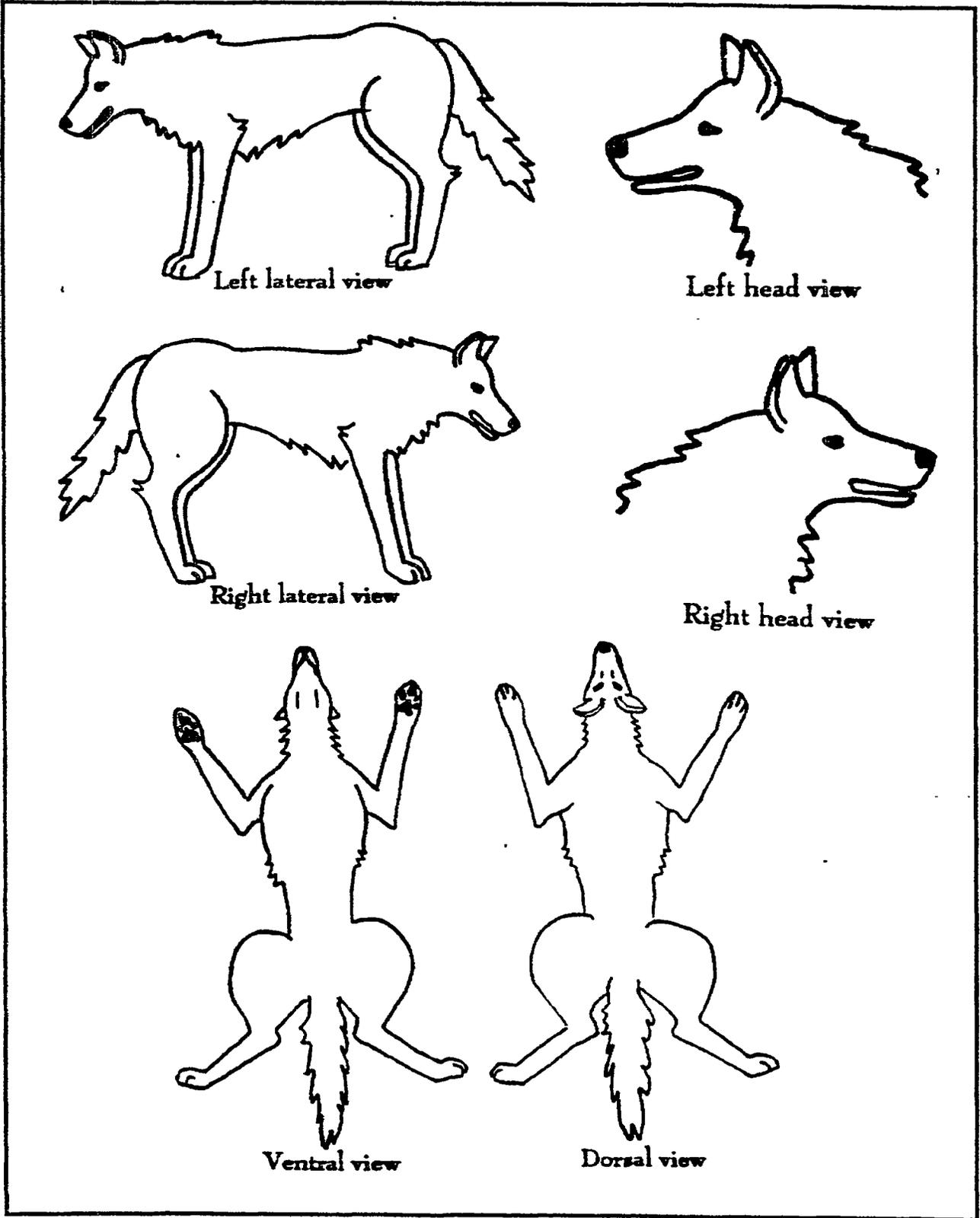
Estimated time since predation/damage occurred (days/hours): _____

Site description/Physical evidence present (i.e., tracks, scat, hair, blood, signs of struggle, scrapes): _____

Carcasses/property damage characteristics (i.e., puncture marks, feeding patterns, measurements between canines, claw marks, signs of hemorrhage): _____

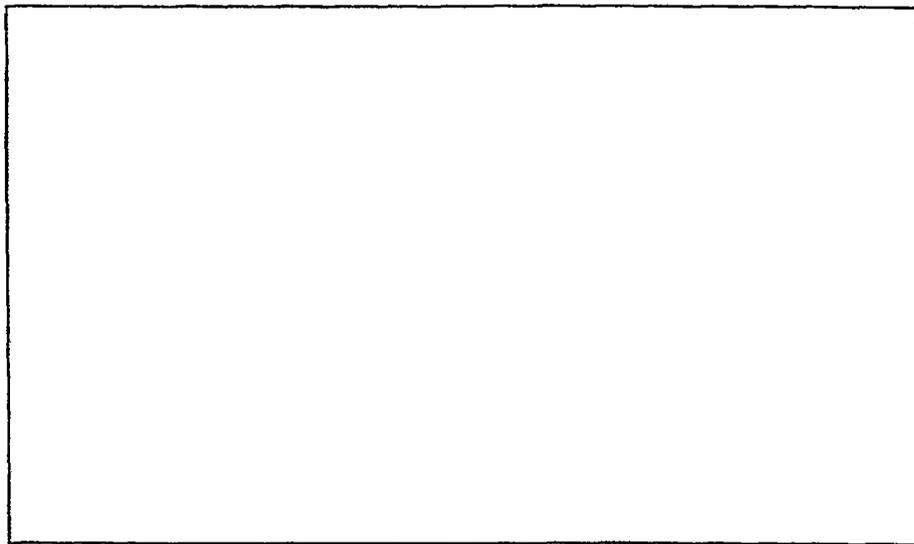
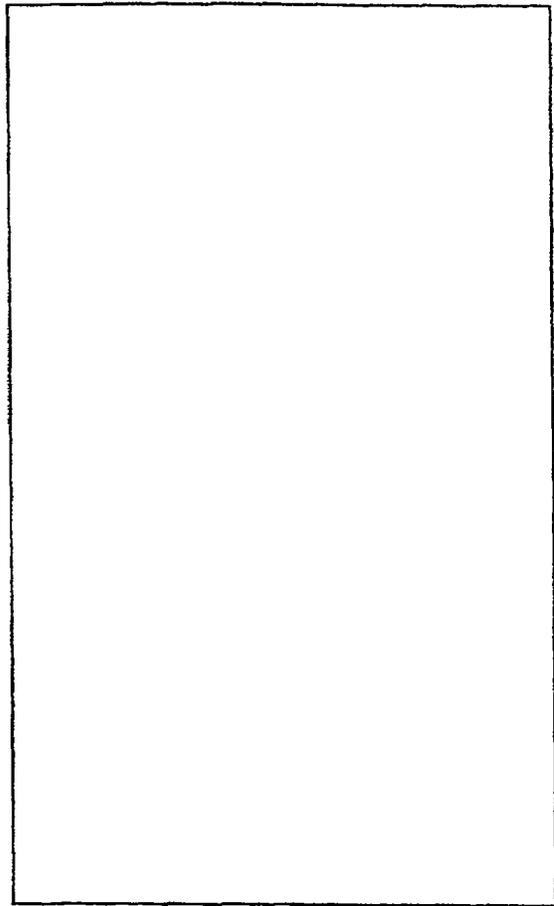
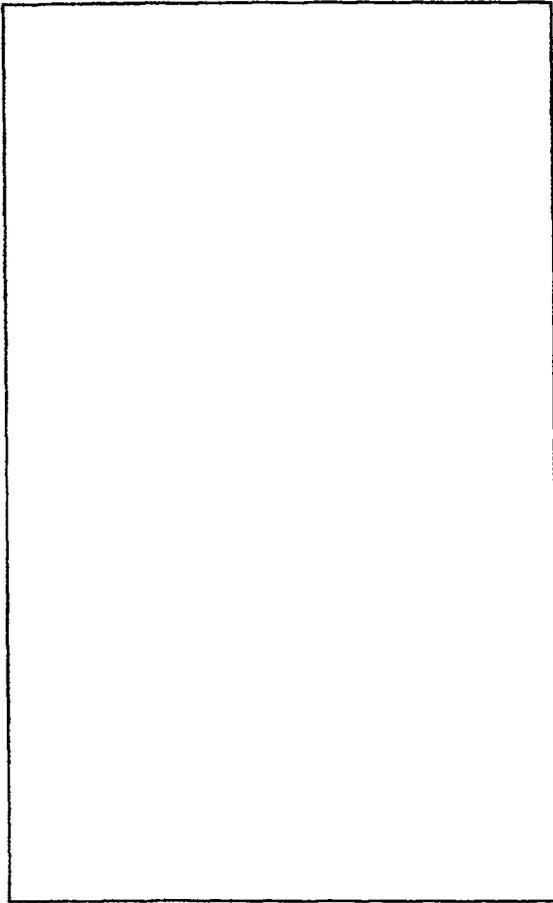
ANIMAL ID: _____

Draw in the proper location for each identifying mark or scar (Identify each by number)



PHOTOGRAPHS

Form B



FORM C

MEXICAN WOLF LOCATION SHEET

Wolf ID _____ Freq _____ Pack _____

Date _____ Time _____ Aerial or Ground _____

UTM-North _____ UTM-East _____

Comment on location _____

Total # seen _____ {#pups _____ #adults _____} Rest Move Feed

Howling (duration, #, pups?) _____

Personnel _____ Recvr ID _____

Miscellaneous _____

<u>Time</u>	<u>Azimuth</u>	<u>Location of azimuth</u>	<u>Odum</u>	<u>Signal Quality</u>
-------------	----------------	----------------------------	-------------	-----------------------

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Triangulation quality (size of polygon):

Poor (> 1 km²) Fair (0.25 -1.0 km²) Good (<0.25 km²)

FORM D

MEXICAN WOLF PREY CARCASS DATA SHEET

Catalog # _____ Personnel _____

Known wolf kill () Possible wolf kill () Other _____

Date carcass discovered _____ Est. date of death _____

UTM-North _____ UTM-East _____

Geographic descriptors _____

Habitat of carcass site _____

Species _____ Sex _____ Age _____ Est. () Actual ()

Antler points: right _____ left _____ greatest inside antler spread _____ mm

diameter 25 mm above pedicel: right _____ left _____

Diastema length _____ mm Percent carcass consumed _____

Describe remains _____

Minimum # of wolves present _____ How determined _____

Pack affiliation or wolf ID _____

Other scavengers present _____

How was carcass found _____

Collected: femur () mandible () skull () pelvis () metatarsal ()

metacarpal () photo () other _____

Describe wounds, hemorrhages, abnormalities: _____

Describe kill scenario (use back for diagram of chase, kill, wolf beds, trails, or other info):

